

TV Jones

The Breconshire Border.

Between Wye and Usk, with NOTES on its
Geology, History, Notabilities, Fauna, Flora,
Folk-lore, &c.

Talgarth

Hay



Glasbury

Llangorse

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1926.

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THE
BRECONSHIRE BORDER

Between Wye and Usk, with Notes, including a
First Flora of Breconshire.



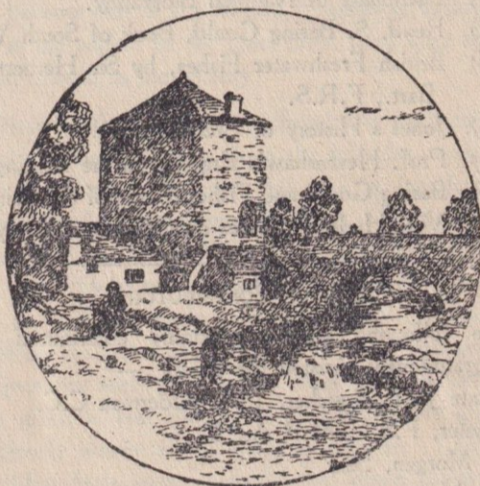
J. R. Phillip.

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First Flora of Breconshire.

Talgarth

Geology
Ice Action
Volcanic
Action
History
Agriculture
Folk-lore
Biography
Population
Mammals
Butterflies
Flora
Fish



Trevecca
Hay
Llanigon
Glasbury
Bronllys
Llandefalle
Llanfillo
Llanelieu
Llanthony
Cwmdu
Blaenllyfni

Llangorse

Edited by THOMAS RICHARDS PHILLIPS,
The Firs, Leominster.

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THE GEOLOGY OF THE TALGARTH DISTRICT.

To enable the reader to obtain a clear idea of the geological nature of the district round about Talgarth, a few preliminary observations may be helpful. The exposed parts of the rocks or outer crust or shell of the earth can be assigned roughly to three classes, viz.:—(1) Sedimentary or Stratified rocks; (2) Igneous rock; and (3) Altered rocks. (1) Sedimentary rocks have been laid down in water by settlement and distribution in seas, lakes and rivers, much in the same manner as that in which the floor and beaches of the seas, large lakes, river deltas and estuaries are now being formed. (2) The Igneous rocks have their origin in the deeper parts of the earth and sometimes force their way upwards through the thinner and weaker parts of the shell in a semi-liquid or molten condition. Upon cooling the mass forms rock which for the most part is of a crystalline or semi-crystalline character. Granite is an example. Disturbances and pressure from below force this molten matter into the cracks and fissures of the crust, till they overflow, as in the case of volcanoes. Sometimes it flows along the bottom of the sea, or rises to the surface, tilting up the outer shell. This and other agencies have resulted in the crumpling and compression of the sedimentary rocks. Thus even the deepest-laid and oldest of these rocks have become exposed to view at the surface of the earth. (3) Altered rocks are largely made up of a class which have become locally altered in character from the heat, pressure and cooling of masses of intrusive and other igneous rock-forming material.

It is not necessary to detail the nature and variations of classes 2 and 3, except to say that the movement of the eruptive or molten matter in bursting through the earth's thin shell causes considerable dislocations, with consequent upheaval or depression of the crust at or near the points of exudation and pressure. The bulk of the exposed parts of the earth consists of stratified or water-formed systems of rocks or formations. Some of the formations are thousands of feet in thickness, and must have taken millions of years to attain their thickness or depth, judging from the rate at which sedimentary deposition takes place in the present era. Repeatedly, from subterranean causes, strata have been tilted

and occasionally inverted; seas and lakes have been altered in shape and depth; and the courses of ancient river channels have been altered. In the altered seas and lakes sedimentation, however, continued as before in horizontal layers, but with the important difference, from a geologist's or palæontologist's view, that the newer layers, of necessity, cannot rest in the same common plane of deposition as the disturbed strata. When this occurs the newer strata are said to rest unconformably on the older (disturbed) strata. These occurrences betoken long intervals of geological time.

The Sedimentary (or Stratified) rocks consist not only of fine sediment consolidated and cemented into stone, but of rocks made



A Mountain Pass near the Dôc.

up of fine and coarse sand and pebbles cemented together more or less firmly into soft or hard sandstone, gritstone and conglomerates. Shales, marl layers and limestones, and other rocks also result from sedimentation. They differ very much in character. Some weather down into clays, loams and sands more or less easily; others resist the weathering agencies by reason of their composition. Thus the harder rocks or layers of harder rocks usually stand out boldly in escarpment, and form the higher table-lands or plateaux of the country, owing to their greater resistance to weathering or

decomposing agencies. It follows that these characteristics of the different rocks have much influence in determining the main scenic appearance of the country as the strata of different degrees of hardness crop up on the surface.

These general observations, it is hoped, will assist the reader in following out the special geological features of the district.

In Breconshire the Devonian or Old Red Sandstone is the prevailing formation. The Black Mountains, the Beacons, and nearly all the land situated between them, and the summits of the Eppynt in Breconshire and the Begwyns in Radnorshire are of Old Red. Most of the northern slopes of the Eppynt and Begwyns, and much of the country farther north, are of the Silurian formation; while in the neighbourhood of Builth, Llandrindod and Garth, rocks of the Igneous and Altered or Metamorphic types are found. The crumpling and tilting up of strata can well be observed in the bed and banks of the River Wye. The tilted lower beds of the Old Red show up when crossing Boughrood Railway Bridge. A great fault crosses the river opposite Llangoed, and can be marked to the Bachowey River at Graig-pwll-du. Both below and above Erwood the Silurian rocks lie at different angles. At Llanelwedd, Builth, on the Carneddau Hills, and in the bed of the River Wye above the town, are samples of Igneous and also of Altered rocks. The Silurian rocks, like the Old Red, are of the Sedimentary class; and are several thousand feet in thickness. The Old Red was deposited later than the Silurian and upon it, the division line being the Tile-stones, which crop out on the northern slopes of the Trewern, Begwyns and Clyro hills.

Sir Roderick Murchison estimated the thickness of the Old Red at 9,000 or 10,000 feet; but it seems difficult to assign to them in Breconshire and Radnorshire a greater thickness than 4,000 feet, unless unconformability of strata, in the formation, is assumed. The indications of this are not altogether absent. This great geologist was not satisfied about the relationship to each other of rocks lying below the Old Red Sandstone, and in 1831, on the suggestion of his friend, Dr. Buckland, he first explored the Wye District between Hay and Builth, in the neighbourhood of the Bachowey River and Trewern Hills. This gave him the key for

determining the relationship between the Old Red Sandstone and the earlier rocks. From this beginning, he extended his observations over many parts of the world and unravelled the order and succession of the earlier strata lying beneath the Old Red Sandstone; and ultimately assigned to them the distinguishing name of the Silurian System. In 1839 he published his great work of that name after seven years of incessant labour.

In the Talgarth district the uppermost strata of the Silurian System crop out some distance below the top of the Clyro, Begwyns and Trewern Hills, on the northern side; then irregularly towards Gwtws-hirwain, Blaengwenddwr, Llangynog, Cwmbach, and afterwards nearly alongside Duhonw Brook and the top of the Eppynt. With the exception of some exposed Silurian rocks in the neighbourhood of Llanstephan, Erwood, Crickadarn and Llanerchcoedlan, and a Carboniferous outlier on the Black Mountains at Pen-Cerrig-Calch, the Radnorshire and Breconshire territory to the S.E. and S. is Old Red, until we reach the Carboniferous-limestone and Millstone-grit, which crop out under the Welsh Coalfield from below Abergavenny on the right bank of the Usk Valley, and around towards Vaynor, Ystradfellte and Penwyllt. The Carboniferous-limestone rests conformably on the Old Red; and is succeeded by the Millstone-grit (the Miners' Farewell Rock), and the grit by the Coal Measures.

Not only the Old Red, but also the Carboniferous-limestone and Millstone-grit, were laid down by sedimentation at the bottom of seas or large lakes and rivers in successive horizontal layers. It must have taken millions of years to deposit such an immense thickness of material, but the fact of outstanding interest to the field geologist is that the strata are not now horizontal, but inclined.

From the character and composition of the outlier at Pen-Cerrig-Calch on the Black Mountains situated 7 miles south-east of Talgarth, and the composition and nature of the strata lying beneath the Coal Measures in the Forest of Dean, the nature of the rocks on some parts of the Beacons, Black Mountains and hills in the neighbourhood of Abergavenny, and other evidence, it is quite a fair deduction to make that the Coal Measures at one

time, far back in geological time, covered these positions, and probably extended far over much of what is now Breconshire, Radnorshire and Herefordshire territory. Also from the fact that there are outliers of Old Red Sandstone in Silurian territory at Garth Hill, Erwood; Colva Hill, Old Radnor; near Nash Scar, Presteign; between Presteign and Knighton; and the existence of the large one at Forest of Clun nearly 100 square miles in extent, it is also a fair deduction that the Old Red once covered a considerable portion of Silurian territory in what is now Radnorshire and Shropshire. Enormous subterranean forces must therefore have been engaged in tilting up the earth's shell. Evidence is not wanting that one axis of elevation extends from Ludlow by way of Presteign, Old Radnor, Builth, Erwood, Llaneglwys, and Castell Madoc to Cornyfan, six or seven miles N.W. of Brecon; and a line of upheaval corresponds.

Lines of upheaval produce fractures not only in the line of



upheaval, but also transversely. The courses of rivers and rivulets and valleys are consequently affected, if not determined, by them. A careful observer will find that the Old Red nearest to this line of elevation lies at a greater angle than the strata of the more distant Black Mountains and Beacons; and that the Valley of the Wye from Boughrood to Hay seems to follow a rift which suggests a possible line of unconformability or of overlapping. Low down on

the southern and eastern side of the valley exposed strata have a different dip and strike from the strata of the Black Mountains. Note the angles of inclination at the following places :—Pontywal, Minfield, Trevithel, the bed of the River Wye near Boughrood Railway Bridge; near Brynrhydd House, Llowes; the railway cuttings at Penlan and Broomfield, Glasbury, and little Ffordd-fawr and the river cliff at Wyeclyff, Hay. Apparently some of these irregularities result from major and minor transverse fractures. Generally the lower beds of Old Red, both of the Wye and of Talgarth, lie at greater angles of inclination southwards or south-eastwards than those of the Black Mountains. The beds of the northern escarpment of the Black Mountains show an even and almost horizontal strike, and a lesser angle of dip towards the S.E. The strata having been tilted up by the Ludlow-to-Cornifan line of elevation and fracture, it follows that layer after layer of the Old Red Sandstone formation becomes exposed from the Begwyns and Trewern Hill in Radnorshire and the Eppynt in Breconshire to the Black Mountains and the Beacons. An aeroplane observer flying above the range of the Begwyns and Eppynt Hills on a clear day would see the Carboniferous outlier at Pen-Cerrig-Calch resting conformably on the highest strata of the Old Red, and observe the exposed edges of the Carboniferous strata of the Welsh Coalfield at the summit of the Old Red on the high lands to the south-west of the Usk Valley from below Talybont and in the direction of Llangattock and Clydach. The Coalfield edges are also exposed south of the Talybont to Torpantau Railway and via Vaynor, roughly in the direction of Hirwain and Neath. The South Wales Coalfield is a detached pocket resting on the upper layers of the Old Red Sandstone. There is little doubt that at one period far back in geological time a similar carboniferous sheet of Limestone, Millstone grit and Coal Measures extended over much of what is now Breconshire and Herefordshire; and was supported and kept in position by the crowded layers of the Upper Old Red Sandstone, which are now missing; and was continuous with the strata of the Forest of Dean Coalfield.

Our aeroplane observer, if he wished, could note that the River Usk makes a great rift through the Old Red in its south-eastern course towards the Severn, and that the smaller rivers of

the Black Mountains and of the Eastern Coalfield nearly all run approximately parallel and in S.S.E. direction. It is reasonable to suppose that faults running transversely to the Ludlow-Cornifan upheaval have to some extent given direction to these rivers. The upheaval of the Old Red on the Carmarthenshire side of the Coalfield is much greater than on the eastern side. The strata are found at much greater angles of inclination. Consequently the area of the Old Red upheaval appearing at the surface situated between the underlying Silurian strata and the overlying Carboniferous-Limestone is there much less than in the Breconshire, Herefordshire and Monmouthshire district lying N., N.E. and E. of the South Wales Coalfield. In this area the strata lie at a lower angle, and, consequently, expose a wide and much more extensive tract of Old Red. Towards the S.E. by E. of the South Wales Coalfield, the inclination of strata again varies, and further to the East lies the detached Coalfield of the Forest of Dean.

From consideration of the foregoing, and of the existence of the Ludlow-to-Cornifan line of elevation, and also of the Old Red outliers in Silurian territory already referred to, it does not require very brilliant imagination to suggest that far away in geological time, not only did the Old Red cover much of the Silurian territory, but that most of the Old Red Sandstone formation of Breconshire, Herefordshire, Monmouthshire and of Shropshire was once covered by a continuous layer of carboniferous strata of which the remnants are the South Wales, Forest of Dean, and Shropshire Coalfields. Subterranean upheavals, coupled with sub-aqueous and sub-aerial denudation and erosion, must have brought about these enormous changes in the appearance of the earth's surface. How far sub-aqueous agencies effected the result is hard to conjecture; but the evidence of what can be accomplished by ice-sheets and glaciers is still observable in Switzerland and northern regions. Doubtless it took several glacial periods to effect what changes can fairly be attributed to sub-aerial and denuding agencies.

The Old Red Sandstone in Breconshire and Radnorshire consists of layers of grey, chocolate, red, purple and greenish coloured rock often of variegated or mottled appearance. There are also beds of indurated earth (locally termed "marl") of varying thicknesses. The rock varies from pebbly conglomerate to

fine sandstone and occasionally mudstone. The pebbly material is mostly of quartzose origin, and is derived from the earlier Silurian, Cambrian and Pre-Cambrian rocks. The sandstones are frequently impregnated with iron rust, which shows that the sediment must have been laid down in water impregnated with iron. This gives the formation its reddish tint. At the base of the formation tile-stones are found; higher up flag-stones, yellowish grey in colour, and also tile-stones; and near the summit coarse, hard, unyielding grit-stones. There are also layers of impure limestones. These frequently appear on the northern outcrop and in the valleys originating in the southern slopes of the Black Mountain and in the Brecon range. Their occurrence betokens temporary alteration in the waters of the sea or lakes in which they are deposited. Some of these limestones (known also as Cornstones) are so cemented together with lime and alumina that they are difficult to crack even with a heavy sledge; repeated blows only crumble them. They can be seen in the bed of the brook above Talgarth. Two or three fine examples stand near the Enig River Bridge in the town. Many derelict lime-kilns can be found all over Breconshire, in which this limestone was once burnt for agricultural purposes. Since the advent of the railway the Carboniferous limestone, a much purer one, has taken its place; and the local kilns have fallen into disuse. The formation here and there affords good building stone; but there are no minerals of workable value. Traces of copper have been found not far from Felinfach, but the deposits were so scanty that no commercial attention has been given them for a very long time.

The strata of the district of Talgarth can best be seen in the gorges of the small brooks of the district. Out in the open land and on the banks and slopes the true character of the rocks is frequently masked by ancient river-gravels, drift and boulder clays and glacial débris. In consequence, the agricultural character of the soil is found to differ considerably even on the same farm. Well marked fossils from the Old Red Sandstone of Breconshire and Radnorshire are rare. They are almost unobtainable. The local portion of the formation is of fresh-water origin. Simple plant remains can sometimes be found. The Crustaceans to be expected are *Pterygotus*, *Stylonurus* and *Eurypterus*. The characteristic fossils are those of the early fishes. Generally they

are of the coarse, bony-plated or hard-scaled or spined class. Most probably nature provided them with this protective armour against enemies which infested the waters at the time.

The fossil fish are named or classed from their scales or other appendages. The chief are *Coccosteus* (berry-bone-scale), *Holoptychus* (wrinkled-scale), *Asterolepus* (star-scale), *Osteolepus* (bone-scale), *Cephalaspis* (buckler-head), *Pterichthys* (wing-fish), and *Dipterus* (double-fin); and others are named after their protective spines.

Fossil shells, loose fish-spines and other markings which may be either eggs, fish-scales or the remains of plants are occasionally met with, but of indistinct form. The coarse nature of the Old Red Sandstone of this district does not favour the preservation of fine fossil casts. Old Red casts bear no comparison with the fine casts obtainable from the mudstones of Silurian strata. Let no searcher be discouraged, however, for fossils can be found although often they are only fragments.

J. GUNTER.

VOLCANIC ACTION IN BRECONSHIRE AND RADNORSHIRE.

Mr. G. R. Thomas, B.Sc., Builth Wells, has kindly furnished the following notes :—

It may be well to begin by considering the trap rocks and altered strata in the north-east corner, that is in Radnorshire, a region whose beauty hitherto unproclaimed by impassioned poet and imaginative scribe, is none the less eloquent in its solemn wildness and savage grandeur. A great ridge of trap extends for about 10 miles in a southerly direction from Llandegley to Builth, giving rise to a wild country whose longitudinal valleys trench the shales and flags of the Lower Silurian. Murchison noted the change in character of the shales at their point of contact with the trap; this change is perhaps best displayed in a quarry north-west of the Park Wells, which he did not notice. Though the scenery in this

corner is wild and romantic, the ground in many places is sterile and arid, due to the yellow clay produced as a result of the decomposition of the felspar. The hills of Gilwern, north-east of Builth, seem to have been a region of great volcanic activity, for there the intrusive trap reaches great heights. The strata round Gilwern are of varying consistency, and there are several kinds of trap. At Carreg-Wiber, the name signifies Viper's Stone, the strata are of some economic value, having long been used as building stone. The trap consists mainly of porphyritic rocks, containing more or less broken or corroded crystals set in a finer matrix, while the grey granular trap contains concretions of limestone and iron pyrites. South of Carreg-Wiber quarries there is a development of Llandeilo flags. The alternation of the trap and Lower Silurian may be well seen on the sides of a mountain streamlet called the Gelli. Here the volcanic rock and the aqueous are quarried, the former being used as building stone, the latter as tile-stones. From this central nucleus of trap, which has burst through the strata of the Lower Silurian, steep promontories thrust out their frowning brows, and consist chiefly of Trappean rock, alternating with Caradoc sandstone of the Lower Silurian. Llansaintffraed-in-Elvel is equally interesting to the geologist and archæologist. Castle Bank, on which was fought a desperate but indecisive battle between the ill-fated Llewelyn, the last prince of Wales, and Sir Edmund Mortimer, is a long narrow ridge rising almost vertically from the low-lying land below. The central materials of Greenstone have been thrust up in large, irregular masses, and there is little appearance of bedding except on the flanks, where slaty and bedded strata are seen, still preserving their Trappean nature. The central core and trap again at Coedmawr pass almost imperceptibly into bedded strata on the sides of the hill.

The frowning mass of Carneddau, which sentinel the Wye at Builth, has been the Mecca of the geologist and archæologist from early days. This is the loftiest mass of intrusive rock which we have to consider in our district, consisting of Llandeilo Flags with associated igneous material. The flanks are rocky and precipitous, though many of the bosses are planed and grooved, and their angularities smoothed by the downward trend of the great

ice masses of the Glacial Period. Indeed, an inspection of the southern flank shows the track of ancient glaciers on the porphyritic greenstone, the smooth surface of the trap extending 30 or 40 yards downwards. There are some fine examples of erratic boulders on Carneddau which also testify to this glacial action. It is curious that the ice markings, the perched stones, and the lateral moraine upon which stands Llanellwedd Rectory were not described by Murchison. The ancient lava is known locally as rotten stone, though there is an excellent building stone of bluish-grey volcanic grit at Llanellwedd, which was used for the construction of the great Elan dam holding Birmingham's water supply. The summit of this ridge, which extends in a north-east direction, is made up of hard, compact felspar. In some places the volcanic rocks preserve their ancient vesicular structure, the vesicles being particularly large in the trap of Carcwm, north-west of Llanwrtyd. The vesicles are often filled with calcareous matter, constituting amygdaloids. It is interesting to note that these amygdaloids have been used for centuries by the local blacksmiths as fire-stones, showing that felspars that have lost their alkali will well withstand the action of heat. Fine and coarse-grained greenstones are plentiful, as well as a white, compact, siliceous rock which is seen at Maen-Cowyn or Maengwyn, which signifies the white rock, on the 900 feet contour. Tradition asserts that these white stones were conveyed here with great labour by the giants of Druidic times. This Rock, which was not noticed by Murchison, has an almost compact or a fine-grained character, and its fracture is sometimes coarsely platy, in others conchoidal. Although the central mass of Carneddau is volcanic, Caradoc sandstone and Llandeilo flags may be seen at one or two places, e.g., near the homestead of New House, where casts of *Orthis Actoniae* and *O. Tadians* may be obtained.

The ridge of Carneddau presents a striking contrast to the Epynt escarpment which lifts its umbrageous shoulders above the sportive Irfon for some miles. The scenery above Cwm-Berwyn, where the andesite has been broken into by a mass of diabase, is grand and solemn, the silence being unbroken save by the mew of the wheeling curlew or bleat of solitary sheep. Caer Einon, capped by the last area of andesite, lifts its frowning brow above

the defile leading into Llansaintffraed, and forms a natural fortress which must have been impregnable in the internecine feuds of the marcher wars. The decomposing felspars form a rich sub-soil for the indigenous oaks which have long been famous in this district; the giants of the forest of Pencerrig provided the keel of the "Royal George," and many of the "hearts of oak" which successfully withstood the advance of Napoleon came from this district. There is no mansion more beautifully situated than Wellfield on the junction of the Llandilo beds and the diabase. The rocks of Llanelwedd, above the old Neolithic necropolis, where the heaving barrows mark the resting-place of our rude forefathers who stalked these hills in the twilight of history, are of a truth noble and grand, and inspire the heart of a scientist to wonder and reverence. The splendid river scenery at the salmon catch is due to the difficulty which the river experiences in fretting its course across this hard volcanic bed; and fishermen wading the waters of the Wye can at once tell when they are on the shale and when on the volcanic rock.

The Wenlock shales may be seen cropping from the alluvium of the river. In the picturesque gorge of the Wye, the grey protruding cliffs presenting slightly inclined strata are made up of Upper Silurian. In some places bands of impure limestone may be seen in these rocks. The impending cliffs of Aberedw, canopied in summer by splendid foliage, are made up of the tilestones of the Upper Ludlow. The Wye, in its narrow gorge from Llanelwedd to Erwood, runs in a fissure transverse to the line of elevation in a south-east direction, the fissure proceeding at right angles to the strike of the strata. At Erwood, where the river scenery is grand, the bed of the Wye is much diversified, a band of Old Red Sandstone being dove-tailed between the Ludlow rocks, this tongue being a prolongation of the mountain mass of Old Red Sandstone which is well-developed in the Eppynt.

In this area, if the Ludlow tilestones be followed, they will be found in one place dipping steadily to N.W., then bending over they dip to the S.E., throwing over the Old Red Sandstone on each flank, and constituting a well-developed anticlinal fold. Following the line of direction along the inclined beds we find that

the strike of the strata at Crugcadarn is N.E. and S.W. Around Builth and Aberedw there are tongues of alluvium; the Ludlow tilestones on the Breconshire side of the river at the latter place are partly dislocated; the tilting, however, is not great. South and S.W. of Builth are grey calcareous beds, and the Tilestones fold round the Old Red Sandstone of Mynydd Eppynt, constituting a remarkable escarpment overlooking the Irfon, and which is then prolonged as the Mynydd Bwlch-y-Groes into Carmarthenshire. The hill of Moelfre, which lifts its crest to a height of 1,500 feet, is a striking feature of the landscape; to its southern slopes clings the infant Duhonw, whose joyous ripple is heard throughout the glen. For a mile-and-a-half the Duhonw forms a natural boundary between the Upper Silurian to the N. and the Old Red Sandstone to the S. This line of demarcation is very striking, the contrast between the light grey soil of the Silurian on the left bank of the river at Neuadd Sharmon and Cilarddu, and the Old Red Sandstone on the right bank at Brynhaenau and Cwmbwch being well seen. From the hill of Moelfre the Tilestones, which are here interspersed with large concretionary structures, dip regularly to the S.W., and constitute the remarkable steep escarpment, terminating in a bluff bold cliff extending for many miles.

In the hills of Pant-y-llyn and Gwenddwr the Ludlow shales incline to the S. and S.S.W. Bending round at Pen-y-garreg near Cwm Nant-gwyn along the Brecon road, they assume again the prevailing N.E. and S.W. strike, and near Llangynog Church dip below the great mass of the Old Red Sandstone of Eppynt.

G. R. THOMAS.



Red Admiral

ICE ACTION IN THE TALGARTH DISTRICT.

We have briefly dealt with the formation of rocks by deposition or precipitation of material in water during ages of time, and the upheaval of such layers by volcanic action. The breaking up of such rocks by means at present in force, frost, wind, water and by chemical action as in the dissolving of limestone has continued for ages. These processes, though slow in denuding the surface, are certain. Such forces have, as we have seen, removed immense masses of material that once covered this area, namely, the Carboniferous Limestone and the Coal Measures. But since that great denudation, the polar ice-cap has, probably more than once, so much increased in extent that it has crept southward until it completely covered Ireland and Great Britain as far as the Thames Valley, joining these islands by means of solid ice to the continent of Europe. The cause of these glacial periods is believed to be certain alterations in the relation of the earth to the sun. The ice in Greenland to-day is two miles thick, and it creeps slowly seawards, grinding the rocks beneath, and breaking off in icebergs on reaching the sea. The ice covered what is now Breconshire on its last visit to a depth of only about 500-600 feet at Talgarth, reaching up on the Black Mountains sides to about the 1,000 feet level, and coming from the direction of Central Wales passed in part round the Hay end of those mountains, and in part along their face past the Das and Mynydd Troed, partly escaping by the Usk Valley towards Llangynidr, but overflowing the range at the Pen-y-genffordd and Bwlch passes. This glacier, which some think was a local one from Central Wales, carried with it scratched Silurian rocks from the Builth district containing characteristic fossils, and deposited them in places where they are found to-day in the Golden Valley, above and below Llanellieu Church, in the Rhiangoll valley, and at Talyllyn; whilst none has been found in the Honddu or Crwyney brooks to the S.E. of Talgarth. The glacier did not therefore overflow the Das or Gaderfawr height.

Where the rock is hard, as in North Wales, the glacier's

track is clearly shown by polished surfaces of Cambrian rock, of granite and gneiss, marked with scratches running along the glacier's path. The moraines are clearly shown in such districts, while here they soon become covered with grass, and are therefore not nearly so evident to the observer. The glaciologist, however, has no doubts as to glacial action in this district, and is able to account for many facts that would otherwise be inexplicable. The escarpment of the Black Mountains above Talgarth has been attacked by the iceflow and much abraded, but the layers of rocks in these heights had previously been tilted and exposed. The Brecon Beacon had its own little glacial system, and glacial streams occupied all the Welsh valleys which radiate from the Beacons. It is not unlikely that the latest Beacon glacier which occupied the Usk Valley at one time overflowed from the Usk into the Wye, deepening the Llynfi valley, and forming Llangorse Lake by depositing material above Trewalter. The general opinion is however that the Wye glacier did this work. Lakes and pools at high levels in the hills are often formed by glacial clay deposits rendering the soil impervious. Pools in the Beacons district and at Brechfa were certainly so formed.

All that the eye could see at Talgarth in those times, even at mid-summer, would be a great sheet of ice, with its crevasses, moraines, and ice-borne rocks just as it exists in the Alpine regions to-day, but on a smaller scale, because our hills are comparatively small. In this ice-sheet would appear a few islands of land, namely, the tops of the Beacons, of the Black Mountains above Talgarth, and Mynydd Troed, and of lesser crests here and there.

Mr. F. T. Howard, in the Cardiff Naturalists' Society's Transactions, says:—"Murchison, in his 'Silurian System,' indicates that the Wye Valley near Hereford is covered with fine gravel and silt of glacial origin, and the material becomes coarser when traced in a N.W. direction. He also states that the boulders come from the Old Radnor hills, and along the Wye Valley. He speaks of confused heaps between Dolfan and Builth, and of thick drift between Kington, Sarnesfield and Hay, and describes how the drift is piled up against the cornstone hills near Hay, opposite the transverse gorge of the Wye. Certainly on the northern slopes of the Wye, in its course from Boughrood to Hay, the Silurian

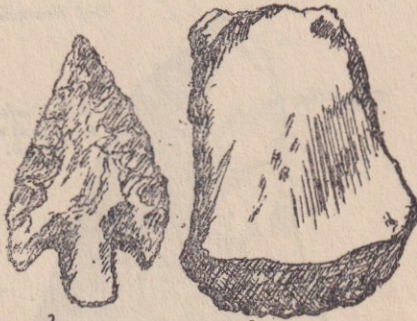
drift overspreads the Old Red Sandstone, and is seen at various places on the south side much higher than can be accounted for by the action of existing streams. Silurian boulders occur sparsely along the Old Red Sandstone drift of the Golden Valley about Dorstone. The escarpment of the O.R. Sandstone to the east of Talgarth rises in two steps, the lower being about 1,200 to 1,300 feet above sea-level, and over three-quarters of a mile wide. The second step rises more abruptly up to heights of 2,000 feet and more. The red boulder clay is full of boulders and pebbles of fossiliferous Silurian rocks, black slates, and sandstones, belonging to rocks of greater age, white vein quartz, and a few small fragments of a dark basic igneous rock. They are generally well smoothed and striated. Though usually not very thick (except in hollows which were pre-glacial ravines) the drift covers the lower step from at least the line of the headwaters of the Monnow almost to Pen-y-genffordd, and it extends down the slope to the Llynfi and the Wye. The foreign boulders, which are not seen in place on the south side of the valley, nor nearer than Boughrood, six miles away on the opposite side, were not seen above the 1,300 feet contour line. It is interesting to note that pebbles of exactly the same type occur in the Great Doward Caves near Symond's Yat. It may safely be inferred that the Wye Valley was filled up with ice to a height of nearly 1,000 feet above the present river."

When the ice finally disappeared, the valleys and shelves would contain heaps of *débris* in the form of moraines, both lateral and terminal, which would interfere with the drainage of the valleys and form long lakes and pools, until such time as the lake became silted up with sand and mud, or the escaping river cut so deeply as to drain the lake. Land so formed in valleys is not uncommon; and much layland is of this character. The Aberedw valley, the Wye valley and the Usk valley, all show stretches of level land near the river which were probably lake sites.

Mr. G. R. Thomas, B.Sc., says:—"Sometimes the *débris* which the ice brought down accumulated in curious sandy and gravelly mounds called Kames. Between Aberedw and Boughrood these gravelly mounds may be frequently seen. There is a gravel pit formed by the excavation of one of these mounds below Aberedw Station. At Boughrood there is an extensive gravel

patch; here the river has a southerly course, but half-a-mile down the river swings back in curious fashion, making a remarkable horse-shoe bend. Just above this bend is the Wye bridge, and between the station and the bridge the G.W. Railway cuts through one of these gravelly mounds. When the glacier melted away, the transported material was deposited at the end, this mass constituting a terminal moraine. The terminal moraine then marks the greatest extension of a glacier, and the gravelly mound below Boughrood marks the recession of the Wye glacier."

T.R.P.



Arrow-head

Bone-scraper.



Spear-head.

Flint Weapons and scraper.

PALÆOLITHS (old-stone)

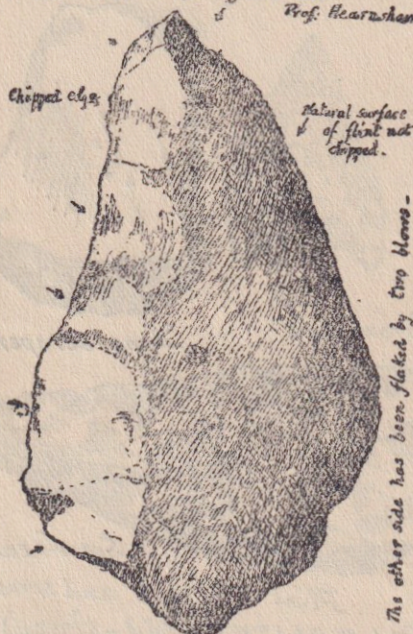
Actual sizes, except scraper = $\frac{2}{3}$ ^{real} size.

THE EARLIEST SETTLERS.

The first people who lived in this country came from the continent on dry land or on ice, crossing the greater Rhine which then flowed into the Arctic ocean. The climate was cold, and ice

probably occupied the northern portion of England, as few weapons of the oldest period are found north of the Trent. The wild animals then existing here included the mammoth, woolly rhinoceros, hippopotamus, bear, wolf, hyæna, and the sabre-toothed tiger. We know that these people used crudely-chipped flints for weapons and tools; and we find these flints in the river drifts of pre-historic streams, or in caves where they found shelter. It is believed that some of these weapons were fashioned not less than 100,000 years ago (23). The oldest stone weapons, called Eoliths, represent the earliest implements of the Palæolithic or Old Stone age.

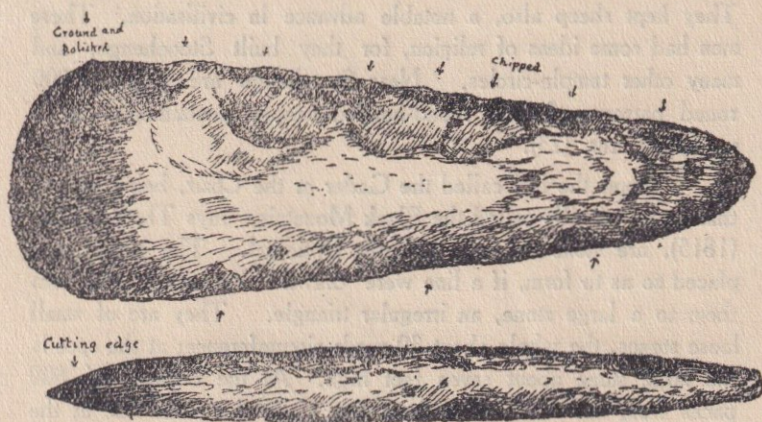
"Not less than 100,000 years old."
Prof. Hearnshaw.



EOLITH (Dawn-stone) from riverbed
of Drift period at Aylasford, Kent.
Earliest kind of flint implement.
Actual and usual size $4\frac{1}{2} \times 2\frac{1}{2} \times \frac{1}{2}$ inch.

The users of these weapons probably lived solely by hunting and fishing, and occasionally digging for roots. They had no domestic animals; and could not spin or weave, or make pottery.

The arctic ice drove them slowly southward, and if they escaped with life it was only to reach the continent. When the ice again retreated northward, after very many centuries, another immigration took place, possibly about 5,000 B.C. These new-comers were more civilised than their predecessors; they could spin and weave and make pottery. They built houses and made funeral mounds. They did not till the soil, however, and had no metals. They made arrow-heads, spear-heads, hatchets and bone-scrappers, all of flint. These weapons are a great advance on the palaeolithic ones. They were first chipped, and then partly or wholly ground and polished; and the age is known from this difference as the New Stone or Neolithic Age.



NEOLITH (New Stone). Stone chipped and roughly ground from caves near Galway. $6 \times 2 \times \frac{5}{8}$ inch. Probably fixed in handle.

These people were short and dark-complexioned, and their skulls were oval-shaped. They made the long barrows and did not cremate the dead.

In Theophilus Jones's time a palaeolithic knife or spear of chipped flint was found in a tumulus in Llanelieu parish; an arrow-head of this period was found at Crugcadarn, and graves of these people have been found at Ffostill, Llanigon, and near Builth. At Llangorse is the site of a lake dwelling of this period. These

people were not Aryans, but of a stock related to the Basques, Lapps and Finns. They made camps on hill-tops everywhere, and there they protected themselves and their cattle from enemies and wild beasts. They were disturbed by new arrivals of invaders using bronze weapons, probably about 2,000 B.C. Their bronze swords and spears gave the invaders advantage over the stone-age men. The bronze age men were tall and fair, with round-shaped skulls; but their jaws were strong and heavy, and their foreheads low. They were very unlike the little, dark, oval-headed people whom they conquered, but they apparently inter-married with them, and taught them the art of metal-working, from which grew agriculture, enabling ploughing and reaping implements to be made. They kept sheep also, a notable advance in civilisation. These men had some ideas of religion, for they built Stonehenge, and many other temple-circles. Near Stonehenge are about 2,000 round barrows of these round-headed people, containing ashes in sun-baked urns. (23).

Upon the hill called the Gader or the Chair, being part of that range of hills called the Black Mountains, says Thomas Rees (1815), are stone circles, evidently Druidical. The circles are placed so as to form, if a line were drawn from each, and from them to a large stone, an irregular triangle. They are of small loose stones, the whole about 30 yards circumference; at the spot is the large stone about seven feet high. At the distance of 800 paces from this stone, in a direct line along the north side of the triangle, one of those circles occurs to which is a smaller attached; on the south side are two others of the same kind, a bigger and smaller; but at the distance of 400 paces only from the great stone.

Following the Bronze Age came the Iron Age. With iron came the Keltic invaders, the first of whom were Gaels or Goidels, the ancestors of the Irish, Manxmen and Highlanders, about 500 B.C. Next came the Brythons, about 300 B.C., the ancestors of the people of Wales, Cornwall and Brittany. The Goidels and Brythons were both Keltic; and a third Keltic people, the Belgæ, followed them and settled in Hampshire. In 55 and 54 B.C. Julius Cæsar made his memorable invasion, and from that time the history of this country assumes a greater definiteness of facts and dates.

The Ancient Britons cultivated land, worked mines, produced artistic metal-work, and possessed an excellent gold coinage before the Romans came; but their religion under the Druids was marred by horrid rites. (23). The idea that these Keltic Britons were exterminated by Romans or Saxons has been largely relinquished. Mr. Nicholson, in his *Keltic Researches*, thinks that, for example, Buckinghamshire and Hertfordshire are as Keltic to-day as South Wales and Ulster.

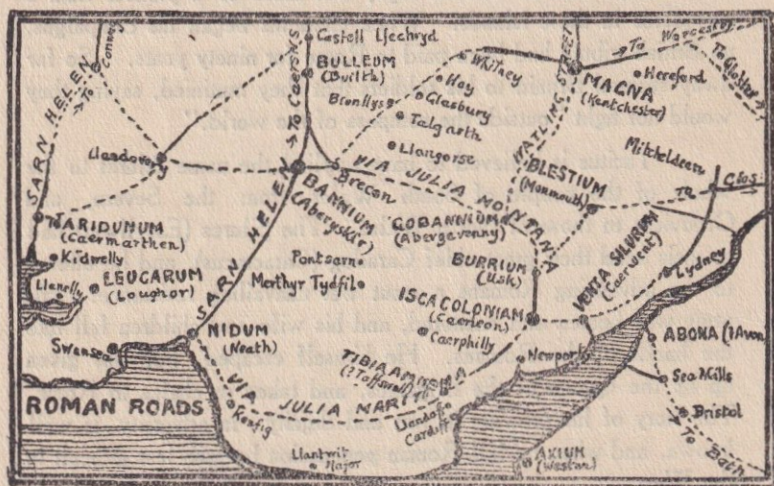
THE ROMAN OCCUPATION.

Julius Cæsar invaded Britain in B.C. 55, but did not explore the country, and as Tacitus says, was more of a pioneer than a conqueror in these islands. When Claudius began his campaigns, no British tribute had been paid to Rome for ninety years. So far away seemed Britain to his soldiers that they mutinied, saying they would not fight "outside the compass of the world."

Tacitus is believed to have applied the name *Silures* to the whole of the people of South Wales from the Severn, and *Ordovices* to those of North Wales. The *Silures* (*Essyllwyr*) had at their head their great chief Caradog (*Caractacus*), and he offered to the advancing Romans a stout but unavailing resistance. His army was beaten and scattered, and his wife and children fell into the hands of the Romans. He himself escaped, but was given up by the Queen of the *Brigantes*, and taken in chains to Rome. The story of his prowess in war and dignity in adversity is well known, and when he fell Roman penetration became less difficult in the West.

The Roman generals having expatriated a large proportion of the population of England, it became their next object to pursue the fugitives into their retreats, and to exert all their power to reduce them to subjection. They directed their forces first of all to the conquest of the native Britons who had escaped into the Northern part of Wales. South Wales escaped for a time, through the policy of its chieftains, who led their followers to the assistance of their Northern countrymen, and to the attack of the common foe at a distance from their homes. The Roman legions do not

appear to have marched into this quarter till the hopes of the Britons had received their death-blow by the defeat and capture of Caractacus, who for nine years had bidden effectual defiance to the Roman commanders. After this event Ostorius Scapula bent his steps towards the South. . . . It appears unquestionable that he passed through the county of Brecknock, and left behind the military works which evidence his progress, and perpetuate the triumph of his arms. Jones says that most of the Roman fortresses in this country were built during the life of Ostorius Scapula. The Gaer, *Caer Bannau*, the Roman *Bannium*, three miles from Brecon, near *Aberyskir*, was the principal station. Here bricks 9 x 9 x 2 ins. in size, marked *LEG. II AUG* have been found, with gold coins of *Nero*, and a silver coin of *Trajan*.



The labours of Ostorius hastened his death, and he was followed by Aulus Didius, who acted chiefly on the defensive. It was not till the arrival of Julius Frontinus, about A.D. 70 that South Wales can be said to have been subdued. Tacitus simply states that Frontinus conquered the powerful and warlike nation of the Silures, having also the difficulties of the country to contend with. He made the great Roman Road, called after himself, *Strata* or *Via Julia*, restored the works of Ostorius injured or destroyed by the Britons, and built new forts (18).

With a great Roman fort at Kentchester and another at Aberyskir, it seemed to the present writer that there must have been a Roman road from one fort to the other. Mr. Codrington had no doubt on the matter and traces it in great part through Hay and Bronllys, being led by the word *Fforddfawr* at two points on the route. But the words *Gaer* and *Heolygaer* on the route are also certain guides, and Leland had already anticipated the idea: "By all likelihood men of old time went from Kentchester to Hay, and so on to Brecknock and Cairmardin." Frontinus apparently did not claim to be maker of this road, so that it was probably one of those made by Ostorius.

At Llanfrynach a Roman hypocaust or bath was discovered in 1783, and several Roman coins were found, one silver and the rest copper, inscribed on the head side *IVLIA AVGVSTA*, and on the reverse *PVDICITIA*, with a seated female figure. To the Romans we owe the familiar figure of *Britannia*, still stamped on some of our coins.

Frontinus reduced the Silures about 70-75 A.D. and the final departure of the Romans took place about 400 A.D.; but it was probably during the reign of the British Prince *Tewdrig* (Tudor), about 380 A.D., that *Maximus* the Roman commander took the first decisive step towards the evacuation of Britain by carrying with him into Gaul "the flower of the British youth" to support his claim to the Imperial purple. (18). He and his army perished in Gaul.

Sir R. Hoare seemed to think, from long observation, that the Romans never chose any very elevated situations for their camps; the figure they always used being an oblong or a regular square. (*Fenton* 1804). T.R.P.

THE BRITONS AND KING BRYCHAN.

With the evacuation of the Romans, lawlessness arose and faction again became rampant. *Uriconium* (near Wellington, Salop), on Watling Street was destroyed by the savage tribes from the North, and the inhabitants fled to *Pengwern*, the site of the modern Shrewsbury. Kentchester (*Magna*) was

destroyed, and Hereford arose in its neighbourhood. There appears to have been a Roman-British party led by Ambrosius Aurelianus, and a rival party of Britons headed by Vortigern. The fierceness of attack from the Northerners compelled an alliance of Ambrosius with Vortigern. Ambrosius had his camp at Croft Ambury, near Leominster, to keep watch on the Watling Street, the common boundary. Vortigern had ultimately to accept Saxon help, and this led to Saxon dominion. The Arthur of romance now appeared as an ally of Ambrosius, and they defeated Vortigern and his Saxon ally Ella. Ambrosius is said to have fallen in battle in A.D. 508, slain by Cedric, and Arthur became king. Arthur was slain in battle in 542 A.D., and the Britons retired into Wales.

It would appear that the native chiefs had been permitted to retain their titles with some forms of authority under the Romans; and, when the Romans left, the country reverted to its ancient condition of a number of petty states, each governed by its Prince or Regulus, sometimes regarded as subject to a paramount King of all Britain.

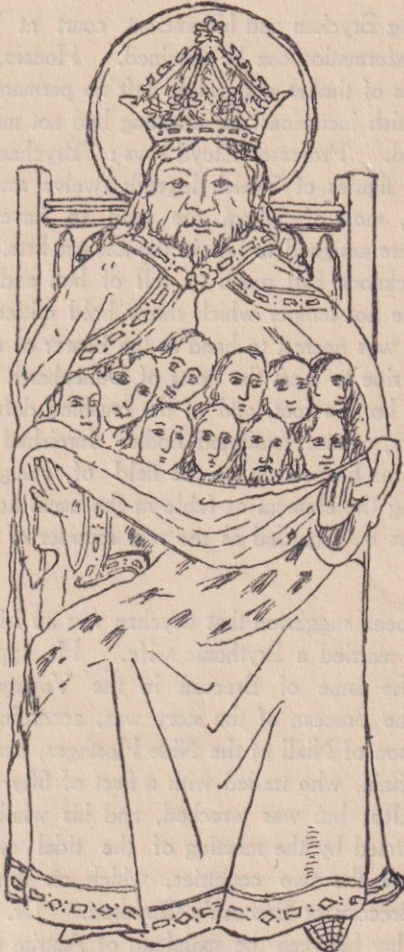
The first prince mentioned is Gwraldeg, about A.D. 230. Then Teithall ap Annwn Ddu, who married Morfydd, the daughter of Gwraldeg, succeeded about A.D. 260. Teidheirn, son of Teithall, followed next, and with him ended his race. Teadwallt, assisted by Northern barbarians, who were at this time infesting England, and with whom he had made common cause against the Romans, then usurped the government, and began a new line of princes which continued for several centuries. He was followed by Tewdrig (or Tudor).

Tudor's daughter, Marchell (Marcella), was his heiress in the government of Garth-Madryn (Breconshire). A pestilence compelled her to be sent to Ireland, where she married Anlach, son of Cormach McCarbery, or Coronawg, King of Ireland. From this union sprang Brychan (Freckle-face) to whom the county is indebted for its present name. It appears that Brychan followed Tudor in the government, though not without strong opposition from the native princes, on account of his foreign extraction.

Little is known of the conduct of Brychan in his regal

capacity. He holds, however, a most distinguished place among the worthies of Wales, from the number and the celebrity of his

*from Baring-Gould & Fishers
"Lives of The British Saints."*



*King Brychan.
From stained glass in St. Neot's Cornwall*

children, and the connection of most of them with the religious, and especially with the parochial, history of the Principality. The family of Brychan was denominated one of the three holy families

of Britain, for the reason, according to the Welsh triads—"bringing up his children and grandchildren in learning, so as to be able to show the faith in Christ of the Cymry when they were without the faith."

Of King Brychan and his ancient court at Talgarth very little reliable information can be obtained. Houses, forts, palaces and monasteries of timber and wattle left no permanent traces, and except for Danish incursions, Brycheiniog had not much traffic with the outer world. Professor Lloyd says: "Brychan is one of the most shadowy figures of Welsh legend; twelve sons and twenty-four daughters, most of whom are said to have adopted the religious life, are assigned to him in the ancient lists, and the story-tellers of Brecknock had much to tell of him and his deeds of prowess, of the hot temper which threw bold critics into jail, and flung whatever was nearest to hand at the bearer of evil tidings, of his marvellous ride to meet the hosts of Deheubarth with the fetter hanging to his horse's foot, and of the crushing defeat he inflicted on the invaders, whose mutilated bodies furnished material for three great cairns heaped up on the field of slaughter. . . . Notwithstanding the element of fable in the usual accounts of him, he may perhaps be regarded as the real founder of the dynasty." (6).

It has been suggested that Brychan was an Irishman (Goidel or Gael) who married a Brythonic wife. He appears in Keltic legend under the name of Breccan in the Voyage or exile of Breccan. The Breccan of the story was, according to *Cornac's Glossary*, the son of Niall of the Nine Hostages, one of the Scotie invaders of Britain, who traded with a fleet of fifty boats between Ireland and Alba, but was wrecked, and his whole fleet lost in a whirlpool formed by the meeting of the tidal currents in the channel between the two countries, which on this account was called Coire Breccan or Breccan's Cauldron. Dr. Reeves thinks this whirlpool lay between the mainland of Antrim and the Island of Rathlin; but it has since migrated, with the legend, to the channel between Jura and

"Scarba's Isle, whose tortured shore
Still rings to Corrievreckan's roar."

Breccan has left footprints of himself not only in Welsh legend, but also in Welsh saint lore and place name, for he is the Brychan, the founder of one of three families of saints, who has given his name to Brecknock (1). Brychan's sons, Cledwyn & Rhain, succeeded him, and Caradog Fraich Fras, who was Brychan's grandson, followed Rhain. Caradog is celebrated in Welsh story as one of Arthur's Knights, and his name implies prowess in the rude warfare of his life. His wife, Tevau Eurfron, was pronounced by bards to be one of the three chaste women of Britain. She had three ornaments which she alone was deemed worthy to possess, her knife, her golden goblet, and her mantle, the last of which was reputed to have this remarkable property, that it would fit none but a chaste woman.

Caradog was succeeded by his son, Cawrdaf, called in the Triads one of the three Prime Ministers of Britain. Cawrdaf had several sons, but little is known of his descendants before the name of Teithwalch occurs about the beginning of the eighth century. In his reign occurred the first invasion of South Wales by the Saxons under Ethelbald, King of Mercia, between whom and the Britons a sanguinary battle was fought in the year 728 at Carno (parish of Llangattock) near Crickhowell, in which the Britons were victorious. To Teithwalch succeeded Tegyd, his son. In his reign the regulus of Brecon lost the greater part of Ferregs (the area between Wye and Severn), which Caradog had united to the lordship. This separation was effected by Offa, who then began his dyke to secure his conquest. Tangwydd, son of Tegyd, thus succeeded to only a part of Breconshire, so much of Radnor as had belonged to Ferregs, and a small part of Merionethshire. Tangwydd was succeeded by his son, Anharawd and Anharawd by his son, Gwendydd. Then followed Hwgan (Huganus), who took advantage of the Saxon King Edward's conflict with invading Danes, to attempt the recovery of his own ancestor's dominions, as well as to revenge the injuries his countrymen had so repeatedly sustained. His force was unexpectedly met by Ethelfleda, Edward's sister, in 916 A.D. with a powerful army under her command, and Hwgan was overthrown in a severe engagement. Ethelfleda, improving her victory, marched promptly into the heart of his province, stormed

his castle (Bricenanmere, or Llangorse) and carried away his wife and attendants as prisoners. This fight was called by the Welsh Gwaith y Ddinas Newydd, the battle of the New City. Hwgan, thus defeated, joined the Danes at Derby, but was closely pursued by Ethelfleda. Here in a vigorous defence he fell, covered with wounds.

Hwgan's son, Dryffin, succeeded, and suffered an invasion by Athelstan about 930; when he was compelled, with other chiefs, to pay a heavy tribute. He also lost what remained of Ferregs, the portion of Radnor, to Athelstan the famous (Elystan Glodrydd), who was afterwards killed in a civil commotion. About 982 Alfred, earl of Mercia, invaded Breconshire, and spread desolation throughout the country, until he was compelled to retire by help received from Hywel Dda, prince of North Wales, and Owen, prince of South Wales.

About 944 Hywel Dda ordered a survey of the Brecknock territory, in common with the rest of Wales, after he had united both North and South Wales. In this survey Brecknock was divided into four Cantrefs or Hundreds —

“Cantref Mawr, divided into the Cwmmwds or Commots of Llywel and Dyffryn Honddu;

Cantref Tewdos, containing the Commots of Gelly and Glynbwch;

Cantref Eudof, containing Commots of Tyr Ralph, Ystradwy, Crughywel and Ewyas;

Cantref Selyff, containing the Commots of Brwynllys and Talgarth, “and extending to Gwenddwr.”

Maenarch, the son of Dryffin, who succeeded, married the heiress of Cantref Selyff, and thus united the whole of Breconshire, which had been divided into two parts since the time of Brychan's death, into one territory. Maenarch's son, Bleddin, was the last British chief of this territory. He had married a sister of Rhys ap Tewdwr, the reigning prince of South Wales, and was involved in the same fate as his unfortunate brother-in-law.

THE SAXONS.

The Saxons, although they occasionally raided Brycheiniog, did not make any settlements here. Clifford was their western limit, and it was also the limit of *Domesday Book* records in this direction. King Alfred, whom Freeman claims to be the most perfect character in history, was on the whole friendly towards the Welsh. Dyfed and Brycheiniog appealed to Alfred in 877 against their King Cadell, son of Rhodri. The friendliness of Alfred towards the Welsh led to the recognition of the Welsh church order by the English Church, and Asser, nephew of the Bishop of St. David's, became an instructor in Alfred's court. The superior learning of the Welsh Church may thus be inferred.

Brecknock was invaded by Alfred, Earl of Mercia, in 982 A.D.

THE DANES.

Danish invasions of Wales commenced about 850 A.D., when Anglesey was devastated. Aethelwulf of Wessex defeated the Welsh King Rhodri, and Rhodri defeated Horm the Dane. The next we hear of the Danes is that they advanced to the Breidden Hills, attacked Montgomery and devastated Brycheiniog, Morganwg, Gwent, and Buallt (e.g., Breconshire, Glamorganshire and Monmouthshire). Hastings, the Danish Chief, was defeated (897) at Buttington near Welshpool by King Alfred and the Welsh.

NORMAN CONQUEST OF BRECKNOCK.

Rhys ap Tewdwr's defeat led some adventurous Normans to get possession of Glamorgan, and this success induced other Normans to attack Breconshire. Thus Bernard Newmarch, with a large following, entered on the conquest of Breconshire. Few particulars are known respecting this invasion, but its consequences proved fatal to the sovereign independence of the Welsh lordship. A general engagement seems to have been fought by the contending parties near Caerbannau, or at Battle, near Brecon, in which

Bleddin was assisted by Rhys and the remnant of Rhys's troops, and was defeated (about 1093). Rhys, who was in command, was slain whilst retreating after his defeat, while Bleddin fell gallantly defending himself in his residence against the lawless invaders of his country.

Bernard Newmarch being, by this decisive blow, left master of Brecknockshire, soon directed his attention to the improvement of the advantage he had obtained. His first care was to reward the commanders who had assisted him in his conquest, by sharing among them the great part of the territories he had acquired, reserving to himself the largest allotment, with the feudal seigniority over the whole.

To Sir Reginald Aubrey he gave the manors of Slwch and Abercynrig; to Sir Humphrey Bourghill, or Burghill, the manor of Crickhowell; to Sir Peter Gunter, the manor from him called Tregunter, or Gunterstone; to Sir Miles Picard (de Picarde or Pitcher), the manor of Scethrog; to Sir John Walbieffe or Walbeoff, the manor of Llanhamlach and Llanfihangel-Talyllyn; to Sir Humphrey Sollers, the manor of Tredustan; to Sir Walter Havard, the manor of Pontwylym; to Sir Richard de Bois, the manor called from him Trebois; to Sir Richard Peyton, the manor called from him Peytin; to Sir John Skull, the manors of Bolgoed and Crai; to Sir Thomas (or Sir Richard) Bullen (or de Boulogne), the manor of Wern-fawr; to Sir Philip Walwyn, the manor of Hay; to Sir Giles Pierrepont (otherwise Parkville), the manor of Gileston; and to Sir Walter de Cropus, lands at Llansaintffraed.

While Bernard was thus careful to requite the services of his own followers, he did not wholly forget what was due to the losses and sufferings of the offspring of the prince he had vanquished. He granted to the sons of Bleddin several portions of land for their support, and treated Gwrgan, the eldest son and the rightful heir of his father's dominions, with a considerable share of respect, allowing him as much freedom as could be deemed compatible with the necessary regard to the security of his own sovereignty, in his newly acquired possessions. (18).

When Bernard Newmarch and his Norman followers obtained possession of the country, the existing castles were con-

verted into regular fortresses, by which the neighbourhood was kept in awe, and the mountain bases defended.

"In the Raigne of King William Rufus . . . that hee (Newmarch) might set sure footing and establish his seat among the Welsh, who repined maliciously at him, hee tooke to wife Nesta, the daughter of Gruffin," says Leland (4).

Nesta was a woman distinguished, indeed, by her rank, but infamous in her conduct, having before borne a son to Fleance, son of Banquo, of Scotland, who became the lineal ancestor of the royal house of Stuart. (18).

"This marriage gave him a footing on the Welsh border, and he was enabled to undertake the conquest of the ancient realm

A Norman Knight



from the Bayeux tapestry.

of Brychan. Entering the country at its most vulnerable point, where between the Black Mountains and the Wye a passage lies open to the Llynfi valley and thence to the Vale of Usk, he had already made considerable progress and probably occupied Talgarth, the Welsh capital of the district, at the time that the death of Rhys ap Tewdwr in 1093 gave him the opportunity of winning a complete triumph." (6).

Soon after his conquest, Newmarch rased Caerbannau, the Roman capital of Breconshire, and erected with the materials the castle of Brecon, wherein he lived. The last act of his life, agreeably to the custom and superstitions of the age, was to make his peace with heaven for a life of violence and plunder, by liberal donations to religious houses. The year of his death is not recorded; it is assigned to the reign of Henry I. From an inscription preserved in Leland, he appears to have been buried in the cloisters of Gloucester Cathedral.

What children Bernard left is not certainly known; only two of them, however, offer any claims to the notice of the historian. Mahel, the eldest of the sons, suffered from the rancorous and deadly hate of his mother, who denied his legitimacy in order to exclude him from his lawful inheritance. He had detected her in a criminal intrigue with a soldier, whom he slew, and this was her revenge. Sybil, Bernard's daughter, thus acquired the lordship, and through her marriage with him it devolved on Milo Fitzwalter, constable of Gloucester. Milo aided the Empress Matilda when she came to England to claim the crown. He was accidentally shot by one of his own knights, who had aimed his arrow at a stag which they were hunting. Milo's son, Roger, succeeded to the earldom of Hereford, with the lordship of Brecon, and the greater part of his father's other possessions, and obtained Ewyas in Herefordshire also, by marrying with the daughter of Payne Fitzjohn. On Roger's death, the lordship of Brecon fell to his brothers, William and Henry, successively, who, dying without issue, were succeeded by their younger brother, Mahel, named after his unfortunate uncle.

Mahel, according to Giraldus, was the most remarkable (of his brothers) for his inhumanity; he persecuted David, the second bishop of St. David's, to such a degree by attaching **his possessions**, lands and vassals, that David was compelled to retire as an exile from the district of Brycheiniog into England or some other parts of his diocese. After a short but tyrannical rule, as lord of Brecon, he died according to Giraldus in the following manner: Being hospitably entertained by Walter Clifford (father of Fair Rosamond), in the castle of Brendlais (Bronllys), the house was by an accident burned down, and he received a mortal blow

by a stone falling from the principal tower upon his head; upon which he instantly sent messengers to recall the bishop, and exclaimed with a lamentable voice. "O my father and high priest, your saint has taken most cruel vengeance of me, not waiting the conversion of a sinner, but hastening his death and overthrow." He, too, became religious and generous to the church at his end.

At Mahel's death his possessions fell to his sister, Bertha, wife of Philip de Breos (Braiosa), lord of Builth. The family of de Breos was probably introduced into Breconshire by Newmarch, and Philip obtained the lordship of Builth on its conquest by himself. He died soon after the accession of Henry II., leaving two sons, William and Philip. William inherited the lordship of Brecon and Abergavenny and all his father's other possessions. He married Maud (Matilda), the daughter of Reginald de St. Waleri, the lady known as "Moll Walbee."

WELSH HOME-LIFE IN NORMAN TIMES.

Giraldus Cambrensis (circa 1147-1223), a Norman Welshman, who was Archdeacon of Brecon, and spent his life hoping to be Bishop of St. David's, who had lived in Paris for years and paid four long visits to Rome, tells us what the Welsh people of his day were like:—Both men and women cut their hair close round to the ears and eyes. The women cover their heads with a large white veil, folded together in the form of a crown. Both sexes exceed any other nation in attention to their teeth, which they render like ivory by constantly rubbing them with green hazel, and wiping with a woollen cloth. For their better preservation, they abstain from hot meats, and eat only such as are cold, warm, or temperate. The men shave all their beard, except the moustaches. This custom was also noticed by Julius Cæsar, who recorded the fact. He also stated that the Britons, previous to an engagement, anointed their faces with a nitrous ointment, which gave them so ghastly and shining an appearance that the enemy could scarcely bear to look at them, particularly if the rays of the sun were reflected on them. In wartime they are accustomed to cut even the hair from their heads, to avoid the fate of Absalom in their excur-

sions through the woods. They are light and active, hardy rather than strong, and entirely bred up to the use of arms, for not only the nobles, but all the people are trained to war; and when the trumpet sounds the alarm, the husbandman rushes as eagerly from his plough as the courtier from his court. They pay no attention to commerce, shipping or manufactures, and suffer no interruption but by martial exercises. They study anxiously the defence of their country and their liberty; for these they fight, undergo hardships, and willingly sacrifice their lives; they esteem it a disgrace to die in bed; an honour to die in battle. Though unarmed, they dare attack an armed foe, their infantry defy the cavalry, and by their activity and courage generally prove victors. They make use of light arms that do not impede their agility, small coats of mail, bundles of arrows and long lances, helmets and shields, and more rarely greaves plated with iron. Their horsemen, when required, willingly serve as infantry, in attack or retreat. They walk either barefooted, or make use of high shoes roughly made of untanned leather. They meditate on war during peace, and learn war by practising the use of the lance; and inure themselves to hard exercise. The young men in peace-time penetrate the deep recesses of the woods, climb the tops of mountains, and learn thus to endure fatigue through day and night. They move about in troops and families, under a chosen leader . . . and they have free admittance into every house as if it were their own. The lances in North Wales are very long; for as South Wales excels in the use of the bow, so North Wales is distinguished for its skill in the lance; insomuch that an iron coat of mail will not resist the stroke of a lance thrown at a small distance. The Welsh neither inhabit towns, villages, nor castles, but lead a solitary life in the woods, on the borders of which they do not erect sumptuous palaces, nor lofty stone buildings; but content themselves with small huts made of the boughs of trees twisted together, constructed with little labour and expense, and sufficient to endure throughout the year.

No one in this nation ever begs, for the houses are common to all; and they consider liberality and hospitality amongst the first virtues. So much does hospitality rejoice in communication, that it is neither offered nor requested by travellers, who on entering any house only deliver up their arms. When water is offered to them,

if they suffer their feet to be washed, they are received as guests, for the offer of water to wash the feet is with this nation an hospitable invitation. But if they refuse the proffered service, they only wish for morning refreshment, not lodging. Those who arrive in the morning are entertained till evening with the conversation of young women, and the music of the harp. In each family the art of playing on the harp is held preferable to any other learning. In the evening, when no more guests are expected, the meal is prepared according to the number and dignity of the persons assembled, and to the wealth of the family who entertains.

The house is not furnished with tables, cloths or napkins, nor does the kitchen supply many dishes, nor high-seasoned incitements to eating. They study nature more than splendour for which reason, the guests being seated in threes, instead of couples **as elsewhere**, they place the dishes before them all at once in large platters or trenchers upon rushes or fresh grass. They bake every day thin and broad griddle cakes of bread. They sometimes add chopped meat with broth. While the family is engaged in waiting on the guests, the host and hostess stand up, paying unremitting attention to everything, and take no food until the company are satisfied; that in case of any deficiency, it may fall upon them. A bed made of rushes, covered with a coarse kind of cloth made in the country, called bryccan (blanket), is then placed along the side of the room, and they all in common lie down and sleep; nor is their dress different from that of day, for at all seasons they defend themselves from the cold only by a thin cloak and tunic. The fire continues to burn all night as well as day at their feet, and they receive much comfort from the natural heat of the persons lying near them; but when the under side begins to get tired with the hardness of the bed, or the upper one to suffer from cold, they leap up and go to the fire; and then returning to their couch, they expose alternately their sides to the cold and to the hardness of their beds.

In the months of March and April only the soil is once ploughed for oats, and again in the summer a third time, and in winter for wheat. Almost all the people live upon the produce of their herds, with oats, milk, cheese, and butter, eating flesh in larger proportion than bread. They have neither orchards nor

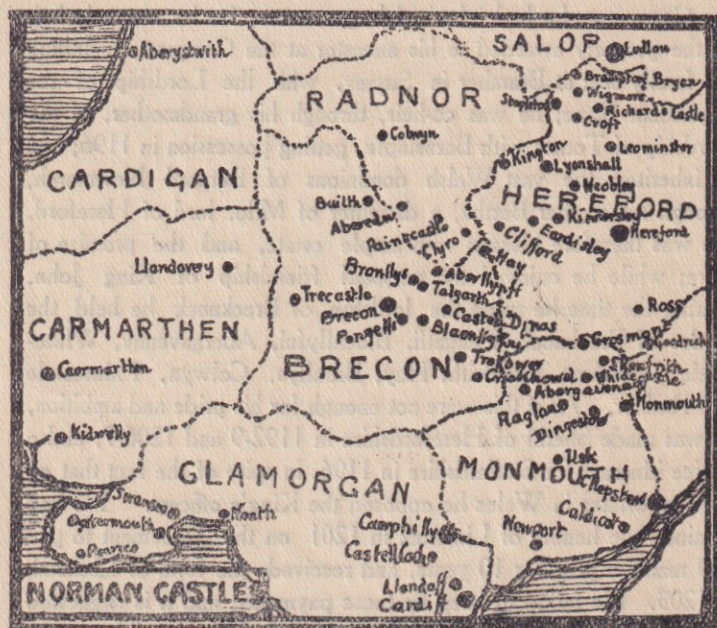
gardens, but gladly eat the fruit of both when given to them. The greater part of their land is laid down to pasturage; little is cultivated, a very small quantity is ornamented with flowers, and a still smaller is sown. They seldom yoke less than four oxen to their ploughs; the driver walks before, but backwards, and when he falls down, is frequently exposed to danger from the refractory oxen.* Instead of small sickles in mowing, they make use of a moderate-sized piece of iron formed like a knife; with two pieces of wood fixed loosely and flexibly to the head, which they think a more expeditious instrument. The boats which they employ in fishing or in crossing rivers are made of twigs, not oblong or pointed, but almost round, or rather triangular, covered both within and without with raw hides. When a salmon thrown into one of these boats strikes it hard with his tail, he often oversets it, and endangers both the vessel and its navigator. Fishermen carry these boats on their shoulders. (9).

Considerations of space alone prevent fuller extracts from this charming old-world writer, but it may be said that he praises the courage, hardihood, frugality and intelligence of his Welsh countrymen, and dilates on their musical and poetic gifts; he is also severe on their defects. "The Welsh, being naturally of a vindictive and passionate disposition, are ever ready to avenge, not only recent but ancient affronts. As the Welsh and Irish are more prone to anger and revenge than any other nations, their saints, likewise, appear to be of a more vindictive nature. . . . The Welsh who are neither worn out by laborious burdens, nor molested by the exactions of their lords, are prompt to avenge an injury. . . . Nothing so much excites, encourages and invites the hearts of men to probity as the cheerfulness of liberty; nor dejects and dispirits them as the oppression of servitude. . . . The English fight for power, the Welsh for liberty." (9).

*A breed of cattle similar to the Chillingham existed in Wales in the 10th century, being white with red ears; and Welsh chroniclers relate how on one occasion a Prince of Wales demanded as compensation for certain injuries 100 white or 150 black cattle, and how also the anger of King John was at one time appeased by a gift of 1400 of the white variety—showing that the latter were numerous, and sufficiently under control to be collected and conveyed from one part of the country to another, and that they were more highly valued than the black cattle—in short, that they existed at that time as a domesticated breed. (1.)

WILLIAM DE BREOS.

What was life like to a subject in the Marches? The answer to that question can best be given by showing what sort of a ruler the subject had. It has been said that every man is a potential tyrant; and we know that a lord Marcher had practically a free hand to tyrannise to the top of his bent. The real atmosphere of the Marches is found in the history of William de Breos, a story so strange and tragic that it is a wonder no historical novelist has yet



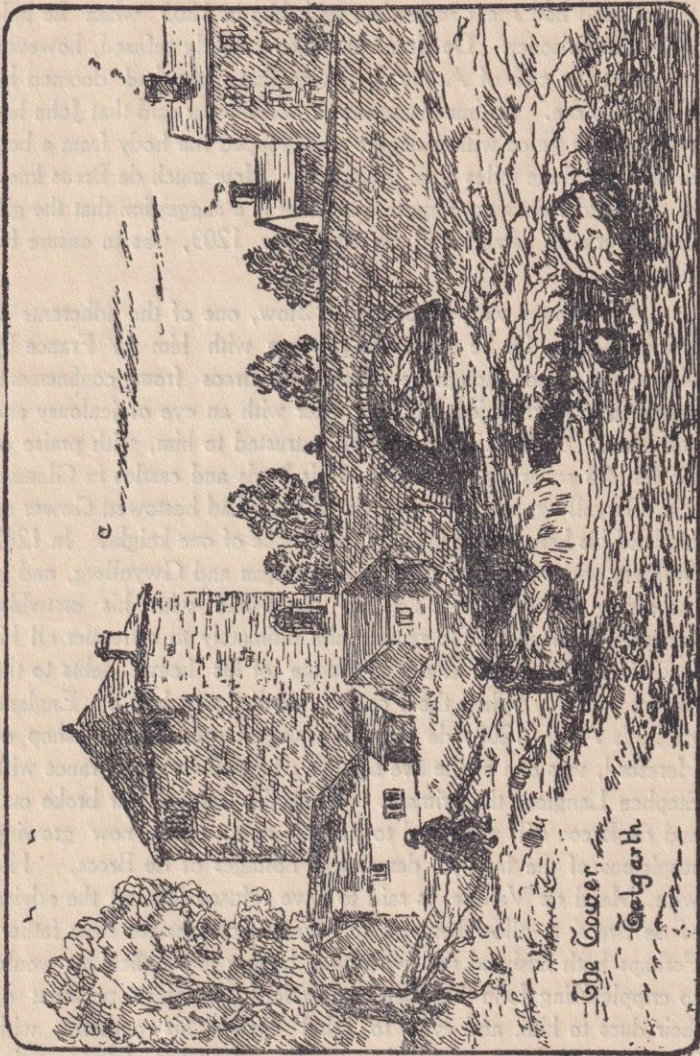
dealt with the theme. The bare facts of his rapid rise, his widespread power, and his headlong fall have a strange fascination for those who inhabit the March country, where he once ruled supreme. He appears to have been a typical Norman, a compound of ferocity and piety, valour and meanness, cunning and superstition; and his career gives a clearer idea of the period than a volume of general description could convey.

For about 35 years he was a leading Lord of the Marches of South Wales, a kinglet in his own kingdom, with power of life and death in his hands, free to do as he pleased with the people under his control. His Marches kingdom was, in reality, an independent state between the warring states of England and Wales; and he had been given in advance, in 1200, by his friend King John, a grant of all lands he could conquer from the Welsh, such conquests to be deemed an increase of his existing barony of Radnor.

Through his ancestor of the same name, William de Braose (alias Braise, Breaux, Brehus, Breos), who literally came over with the Conqueror, he had inherited large estates, for he was sole heir to the property awarded to his ancestor at the Conquest, including the family seat at Bramber in Sussex, with the Lordship of the appendant Rape; he was co-heir, through his grandmother, of the Lordship of Totnes with Barnstaple, getting possession in 1196; and he inherited the vast Welsh dominions of Bernard Newmarch, through his mother Bertha, a daughter of Milo, lord of Hereford. He was therefore blessed with ample estate, and the promise of more; while he enjoyed the personal friendship of King John. During the time he ruled the lordship of Brecknock he held the castles of Brecknock, Pengelli, Blaenllyfni, Abergavenny, Whitecastle, Grosmont, Skenfrith, Hay, Bronllys, Colwyn, Painscastle and Radnor. As if this were not enough for his pride and ambition, he was made Sheriff of Herefordshire in 1192-9 and 1206-7, and a justice itinerant for Staffordshire in 1196, in spite of the fact that on his own estates in Wales he opposed the King's officers. He had obtained the honour of Limerick in 1201 on the agreement to pay 500 marks a year for 10 years, and received the ferm of Limerick in 1203. He failed to keep up these payments, and it is suggested that this default aroused the King's enmity. Why he did not pay is not explained, as he seemed to have had ample means, being then at the zenith of his power and prosperity. The solution may lie in the concealed hope that John's parlous condition would by some means set de Breos free of the debt.

King John had serious troubles of his own, what with his wars in Wales and Ireland, the disaffection of his barons, and the Pope's interdict. These were serious enough, but there was also

the gloomy consciousness that he was generally believed to have murdered his nephew, Arthur of Brittany, in order to get him out of



the way as a claimant to the throne of England. In France it was said of John that he could not raise his head to face his opponents,

and that he was under the spell of witchcraft. He was known to be vicious, cruel and perfidious. De Breos had been very friendly with King John, was one of the foremost to support John's claim to the throne, and had spent some time with him in 1203 when he held Arthur as prisoner. De Breos had then publicly refused, however, to accept the care of Arthur, believing that John had doomed his nephew to die. Arthur disappeared; and rumour said that John had stabbed him thrice with a dagger and dropped the body from a boat in the river three miles from the prison. How much de Breos knew of the murder does not appear; but there is a suggestion that the gift of the ferm of Limerick in the same year, 1203, was to ensure his silence.

De Breos was, according to Stow, one of the adherents of Prince Arthur, for he was taken prisoner with him in France by King John, who, though he released de Breos from confinement, seems to have regarded him ever after with an eye of jealousy and suspicion. But in 1202 John had entrusted to him, with praise of his faithful service, the custody of his lands and castles in Glamorgan, Gwynllwg, and Gower. In 1203 he had bestowed Gower on him and his heirs, to be held by the service of one knight. In 1207 William was ordered to give up Glamorgan and Gwynllwg, and in the spring of 1208, John was so dissatisfied with his erstwhile honoured lieutenant as to require him ultimately to surrender all his lands in England and Wales in pledge of his heavy debts to the Crown. (6). When the Pope's interdict was laid on England on 26th April, 1208, de Breos's youngest son, Giles, bishop of Hereford, was one of the five bishops who withdrew to France with Stephen Langton, the primate. When the Barons' war broke out, and de Breos still neglected to pay his debt, John, now growing suspicious of the family, demanded hostages of de Breos. His wife, Maud de Valerie, is said to have refused (against the advice of de Breos) to allow her sons to become hostages for their father. Perhaps both husband and wife were hoping that difficulties would so cripple King John that they could afford to refuse payment of their dues to him, and even to rebel against his authority with impunity. If this were so, they much under-rated John's pertinacity and enmity. In the true Norman spirit, he proceeded to ruin his enemy under cover of legal process. When at the end of six

years, after the grant of the honour of Limerick, de Breos had only paid 700 marks in all, instead of 500 a year, and was in arrears for the ferm of Limerick also, John had recourse to distraint on the English estates of de Breos. The stock had been removed, however, and Gerard de Athiis, the King's bailiff in Wales, was next ordered to distraint on him. At this juncture Earl Ferrars and other friends of the debtor met the King at Gloucester, and on their intercession de Breos was allowed to come to the King at Hereford and surrender his castles of Hay, Brecknock and Radnor in pledge of the arrears. The castles were duly surrendered; but de Breos still felt committed to resistance, and strove to regain the three castles by surprise. Failing in the attempt, he stormed and sacked Leominster. The debtor had become a rebel, and on the approach of the King's forces he fled with his family to Ireland; whereupon the King seized his estates.

In Ireland he was harboured by William Marshall and the Lacys, who promised to surrender him within a certain time, but failed to do so until John's invasion became imminent, when he was sent over with a conduct to the court. He came, however, no nearer than Wales, where he harried the country till June, 1210. He then offered 40,000 marks for peace and the restoration of his lands, but John declared that he must treat with his wife, as the principal, in Ireland. His wife, besieged by John in Meath, fled to Scotland, but was captured in Galloway, with her son and his wife, by Duncan, of Carrick, and brought back to John at Carrickfergus by the end of July. John extorted from her a confirmation of her husband's offer and took her with him to England. William met them at Bristol on 20th September, 1210, and finally agreed to pay the 40,000 marks; but as neither he nor his wife would pay anything, he was outlawed in default, and fled from the port of Shoreham in disguise (*quasi mendicus*) to France. He died at Corbeuil, the following year (9th August, 1211), and was buried the next day in St. Victor's Abbey, Paris, by Stephen Langton, the exiled primate.

His wife, Maud de Valerie, or de Haye, to whose arrogance his fall was largely attributed, was imprisoned, with her eldest son, by John in Windsor Castle, where they are said to have been

starved to death. Matthew Paris states, but erroneously, that the son's wife shared their fate; while Pearson denies even the mother's death on the ground that she appears as living in 1220; but the Maud there mentioned was clearly her son's wife, who, with the third son, Reginald, had escaped capture.

The second son, Giles, the Bishop of Hereford, returned to England with the Primate on 16th July, 1214, and paid a fine of 9,000 marks for his father's lands on 21st October, 1215. As he died very soon after, John allowed his lands to pass without further fine to the third son, Reginald, on 26th May, 1216, who also, under Henry III., recovered the Irish estates.

Such are the facts as recorded mainly in the *Dictionary of National Biography*, and they may be accepted as reliable, being supported by reference to documentary evidence on almost every point; but there are numerous isolated notes on William, and on Maud, his wife, which it may be interesting to collate. William is sometimes confused with his father, Lord of Radnor and Builth, who bore the same name, but his ferocity to his enemies, as in the case of the Abergavenny massacre, and the treatment of Trahaern, mark him out as the William de Breos of the legends, whom Col. Bradney calls the Ogre of Abergavenny. Rees says: "William's character stands tarnished by the guilt of one of the most atrocious acts that have ever disgraced the most barbarous of times or countries." Sometime towards the end of 1173 Seisyllt ap Dwfnwal and Ifan ap Ryrid, two chieftains of considerable influence in Gwentland, then in arms against the King of England, obtained possession of the castle of Abergavenny through the treachery of the King's officers, to whom it had been entrusted. They soon, however, delivered it up, and on their submission obtained the King's pardon, and were received into favour. The castle was then restored to William de Breos.

Professor Lloyd speaks of the Abergavenny massacre as a tragedy of perfidy on the part of de Breos, the lord of Abergavenny, when leading Welshmen were lured to the castle and slaughtered at a given sign in 1175, thus signalling the beginning of his rule. Col. Bradney says it was Christmastide, and the Welshmen were de Breos's invited guests. After the massacre, his retainers mounted

their swiftest horses to spread ruin far and wide in Seisyllt's country. "Arrived at the court of the slain chieftain," says the narrative in Professor Lloyd's history, "they had carried away his wife as a captive, after slaying in her arms his seven year old son, Cadwaladr. The border warfare was at all times savage and unpitiful, but it did not often witness perfidy and barbarity of this deep dye; small wonder was it men thought that misfortune should beset the path of the lord of Abergavenny." Shrewd contemporaries absolved him from some of the guilt of this bloodthirsty deed, blaming the elders who advised him, his uncle, Philip of Briouze, and Ranulph Poer, a royal official of the borders, and even holding the King in a measure responsible; but the popular voice attributed to him the full infamy of a crime committed in his own castle and by his own men.

In the midst of his villainies, de Breos was not unmindful of the customary means to conciliate the church, and purchase pardon of his guilt. He gave liberally towards the support of religious houses; and this may account for the manner in which Giraldus glosses over his crimes and palliates their enormities. Giraldus scruples not to ascribe the massacre to the counsels of the King; but Matthew Paris and Holinshed assign as its cause revenge for the death of his uncle, Henry, of Hereford, whom some of the company were said to have murdered. On the side of religion or religiosity, William de Breos, "the leading personage in South Wales at the close of the twelfth century (says Professor Lloyd), was a typical Norman baron, as scrupulous in his attention to the forms of religion as he was ruthless and grasping in his dealings with his fellowmen. The author of the massacre of Abergavenny would not pass a church or a wayside cross without stopping in his talk to offer up a prayer; and he would speak to children in the street for the mere satisfaction of hearing them answer his greetings with the conventional words of blessing."

The cruelty of this monster did not, however, end with Abergavenny. Some years afterwards (1196) Trahaern Vychan, a descendant of Gwrgan, and a man of real power in Breconshire, coming to Llangorse to meet William at a friendly conference, was treacherously seized by his orders; then fastened to a horse's tail,

and in this ignominious manner, dragged through the streets of Brecon to the gallows, where he was beheaded, and afterwards suspended by his feet. Theo. Jones calls Trahaern lord of Llangorse, but the Welsh chronicle only stated that he went to meet de Breos at Llangorse.

These enormities roused the stifled spirit of the Welsh. Abergavenny was revenged by the men of Gwent, and revenge for Trahaern's murder was attempted by Gwenwynwyn, who was related by marriage. Gwenwynwyn laid siege to Payne's Castle; but was defeated by de Breos and other lords Marcher, with a loss of 3,000 of his men.

King John, however, had determined to ruin de Breos, and as related he fell. Surely no one who saw de Breos at the zenith of his power and prosperity could have dreamt of a fall so great as that of this powerful and arrogant lord, who was compelled to steal from the scene of his triumphs disguised as a beggar, and thus take ship at Shoreham to end his days in France, in indigence and misery, an exile and an outlaw.

MOLL WALBEE.

In the neighbourhood of Hay, in the late sixties, a mother might be heard accusing her child of being "as dirty as Moll Wallbee." Enquiry would have informed one that Moll was a stone effigy in the church at Hay, and that the said effigy was not in a very clean condition. Never having seen the effigy, the present writer cannot attempt to describe it; but when seen in 1804 by Richard Fenton, the historian, his remarks were:—"Nothing worth notice in the church, but a stone with an effigy, the present much mutilated and worn that even the sex of the figure it represented cannot be correctly ascertained. The common people call her Maud Wallby, and say she was a witch." She was called also Maud de Haia, Malt Walbri, Malt Walbere and Matabrune.

She built (say the gossips) the Castle of Hay in one night: the stones for which she carried in her apron: while she was thus employed, a small pebble, of about 9 feet long, and one foot thick,

dropped into her shoe. This she did not at first regard, but in a short time, finding it troublesome, she indignantly threw it over the river Wye into Llowes churchyard in Radnorshire (about three miles off), where it remains to this day, precisely in the condition it fell, a stubborn memorial of the historical fact, to the utter confusion of all sceptics and unbelievers. The fable of her carrying the stones and completing the Castle of Hay in one night, perhaps, means that she collected, or rather extorted, from her tenants a sum sufficient for the purpose in a very short time. (21).



Moll Walbee.

There was also a legend of the Welsh which gave Moll Walbi the part of Gesler in a doublet of the story of Tell and the apple. (6).

She was evidently a woman possessing great force of character, and her name lingered in legend as the witch, Moll Walbee. Her correct name was, undoubtedly, Maud (or Matilda) de Valerie, and she was the wife of William de Breos, lord of Brecknock, the rebel baron who died in 1211 in exile. Valerie is the little port in Normandy from which the Conqueror sailed.

On the death of Einon o'r Porth in 1191, de Breos took possession of Elfael, and built therein Colwyn Castle and Castell Paen or Payn's Castle. The latter was known to the English as Castrum Matilda or Castle Maud, no doubt because it had been

stoutly defended against a Welsh attack in 1195 by Maud de Valerie, the Amazonian wife of its builder and lord. The name of Castle Maud has been wrongly applied to Colwyn. (6).

All the ancient writers speak harshly of her, as loyal subjects in duty bound, but her chief offence appears to have been that she told King John's messengers plainly that "she would not deliver her sons unto him, who had already slain his own nephew," a message which, as may be imagined, greatly exasperated the King. For this and her rebellion with her husband Leland calls her witch or saga; and Camden says:—"When she uttered reproachful language against King John, the King strictly commanded her husband, who was deep in his debt, to discharge it immediately. His wife was taken, suffered the worst of miseries, as she was starved in prison, and so did severe penance for scurrilous language . . . a malapert (*procasissima*) woman."

Indeed, the impression is given that she was a noisy virago who insolently taunted the king; but, perhaps, she truly estimated John's character, was convinced that he had murdered his nephew and could not be trusted with her sons' lives. One of the old writers calls her "the wary wife." She possibly knew the facts of Arthur's murder, for her husband was then very friendly with the King, and, if so, it was probably her motherhood that spoke wildly in defence of her children. The King, bent on the ruin of husband and wife, refused to treat with de Breos, and declared that he must treat with his wife, as the principal in Ireland. On this matter John wrote in explanation:—"We know full well that it is not in his power, but in his wife's, who was in Ireland, to satisfy the debt due to us, and, therefore, we sent to inform him that we are now about to sail for Ireland, and that if he was in earnest, we would accompany and supply him with a safe conduct for that kingdom, to enable him to talk with his wife and friends about the amount of the fine he was to pay, and the ratification of the terms to be agreed upon."

She was besieged at Meath by John; but fled to Scotland, only to be captured and handed to her royal enemy, who took her and her son to Windsor.

Her husband, after becoming a rebel, had joined Llewelyn

the Great (who had attacked him in 1202), but his resistance soon collapsed and he fled, abandoning his wife, Maud, and his eldest son, William, to the pitiless vengeance of the hardest heart in Christendom (6), and their death by starvation in prison at Windsor about 1211 was the result. It is said they were walled in whilst alive.

Her daughter, Margaret, married Walter de Lacy, and on 10th October, 1216, she received a licence to found a religious house for the souls of her mother, Maud, and her brother, William, the victims of John's revenge. (18). Maud's daughter, Matilda, married Gruffydd ap Rhys in 1189 and died in 1210.

Giraldus, who knew Maud well, says of her:—"His wife Matilda de Saint Valery, observed all these things: a prudent and chaste woman; a woman placed with propriety at the head of her house, equally attentive to the economical disposal of her property within doors, as to the augmentation of it without; both of whom, I hope, by their devotion obtained temporal happiness and grace, as well as the glory of eternity."

T.R.P.

THE NORMAN TEMPERAMENT.

The Normans who conquered England in 1066, and eventually conquered Wales, were the descendants of Danes or Northmen, who settled at Rouen. When they invaded France about 900 A.D., they were pagan pirates. They became in the course of a century Frenchmen and Christians, a body of gentlemen who oppressed the actual cultivators of the soil. The berserker rage, which characterised them as vikings (wearing bear shirts), was observable in their descendants the Normans, who conquered Sicily. Freeman says: "The quality which Geoffrey Malaterra expresses by 'effrentissima' is clearly marked in Norman history. It is, in fact, the groundwork of the historic Norman character. . . . If the Norman was a born soldier, he was also a born lawyer. He was excessively litigious, fond of law, legal forms, legal processes, which

has ever been a characteristic of the people. . . . Even Norman lawlessness in sort took a legal shape . . . the robber baron could commonly give elaborate reasons for every act that he did." This explains why the Conqueror pressed a fictitious legal claim to the throne of England, and supported it with his sword; and also why Norman barons like Newmarch married Welsh women of rank so as to cover their designs on Wales.

The Normans did not conquer Britain with the desire to promote civilisation, to foster learning, to introduce art, or to ensure good government by destroying faction. Yet they builded better than they knew, and conferred on Wales, as on England, great and lasting benefits. It may be said that they did all this, in spite of their greed and cruelty. At any rate they did it, and Wales became an inlet of the great ocean of continental life in the middle ages, which was nominally Christian and greatly in advance, as far as humanitarianism was concerned, of the Roman civilisation. Still, Professor Tout, in his life of Edward I., says:—"Regard for human suffering was a rare quality in the middle ages, at least outside church and cloister." The cruelties then often inflicted were such as we can hardly realise to-day—heads cut off, ears lopped, noses slit, tongues cut out, and eyes removed, on very slender pretexts. This cruelty was common to most nations, and died but slowly, and when we recount the cruelties of Normans in Wales, we do not suggest that there was no retaliation on the part of Welshmen. The latter were defending their homesteads, wives and daughters, and their own very existence. There is good reason to believe that Norman rapacity and its system of government sought conquest as much by frightfulness and blockade as by the sword. The Welsh needed cattle, hay, wood, and corn, and many a battle and hundreds of skirmishes could be described as fights for the liberty to secure food and shelter.

What Normans were like in the time of the Conquest in 1066 may be gathered from the behaviour 200 years later, of Edward I. before he reached the throne. Professor Tout says:—"Strange tales were told of the lawless deeds wrought by the heir to the throne out of mere love of mischief or wanton cruelty. The progress of the Lord Edward with his band of 200 horsemen, mostly

foreigners, were like the movements of a desolating plague. Not even Louis of France, the invader of England in King Henry's youth (who came to Hay 1216) had taken about with him such a band of ruffians and desperadoes. No common man had any rights that such high-spirited gentlemen could regard as sacred. They stole the horses, the waggons, and the provisions that came nearest to their hands. Even monks were spoiled and maltreated by these reckless youths. One day, when Edward paid a visit to his uncle Richard at Wallingford, his followers took violent possession of the neighbouring priory, and driving out and insulting the lawful owners, stole their food, destroyed their property, and beat their servants. On another occasion Edward was passing along a road, and, out of mere wantonness, ordered his followers to cut off an ear and pluck out an eye of a harmless youth who had happened to cross his path." If one of the greatest and wisest of English kings could act like this, we can understand the terror of the countryside when De Breos or Newmarch were plundering in Breconshire.

Giraldus Cambrensis, writing in the twelfth century, states that the Welsh in his day did not live in towns but in solitary houses on the borders of woods, and that their houses were very primitive structures of branches. They had probably summer and winter houses of this kind, necessary as they moved to pasture their cattle; but such houses would leave no lasting ruins, as stone-built houses leave. The roof tree was a very literal fact amongst primitive peoples, who often raised their dwelling around a great living tree, which gave support and strength to the structure they added thereto. The Normans were the great builders of stone castles, churches and monastic buildings, and there appear to be no remains of any buildings in Breconshire, prior to their advent, except Roman ruins, though some antiquaries claim that the Welsh possessed stone buildings, such as castles, prior to the Conquest.

T.R.P.

THE MARCHES.

The word Marche, meaning a boundary, was applied first by the Normans to the border area, including the Breconshire of to-day, extending from Chepstow to Chester. It is connected with Mark and Mercia, both meaning boundary, used by the Saxons; and, according to Guest, Severn is derived from the Goidelic word Sabhrann, also meaning boundary. Indeed, the Severn was the boundary between Saxon and Welsh until the battle of Deorham, 577 A.D.

The word Marches was, however, gradually extended in use to mean the whole area held by the Lord Marchers, however extensive, not included in the Principality or in the English counties adjoining the border.

Lubbock says with regard to the origin of March, a frontier : — "In the troublous times of old, it was usual, in order to avoid disputes, to leave a tract of neutral territory between the possessions of different nations. These were called Marches; hence the title of Marquis, which means the officer appointed to watch the frontier or march. These marches, not being cultivated, served as grazing grounds. To them came merchants in order to exchange on neutral ground the products of their respective countries; they were, in fact, the first markets; here, also, for the same reason, treaties were negotiated. Here again, international games and sports were held." The god of boundaries was Hermes (Mercury), also called Termes, whose symbol was an upright stone. The large upright stone at Cwrt-y-gollen, Crickhowel, may have served this purpose.

The Welsh Marches were occupied by the Lord Marchers, after the Norman Conquest, as their own petty kingdoms, where the King's writ did not always run. It is now difficult to realise what restrictions and injustice the local residents then suffered. Even in Saxon days, under Harold's law, any Welshman found armed on the eastern side of Offa's Dyke was liable to have his right hand cut off by the King's Officer. In the days of the Lord-Marchers, the administration of justice in the Marches was a mockery. Each lordship, and there were 140 such lordships at one time in the

Marches, had its own jurisdiction; and being generally at variance with neighbouring lordships, persons accused of crimes found shelter outside the lordship where the crime was committed. Courts and judges were alike corrupt. In 1403 all Welshmen were to be expelled from the border towns, and trade between England and Wales, especially trade in arms, was to be stopped. In 1410-1416 the Welsh were forbidden to buy land near any town on the borders, and could not be burgesses. The towns therefore remained "English," and further legislation prevented Welshmen holding fairs or markets. No Welshman could hold any office or carry arms. In suits between English and Welsh the judge and jury were to be English. During the Wars of the Roses, 1413-1485, extreme disorders prevailed owing to the existence of a large floating population living by professional robbery, and hiring themselves out to the Marches to carry on their private wars. The chief causes of this surplusage were that the close of the Hundred Years' War had led to the dismissal of large numbers of mercenary troops; the keeping of retainers had been made illegal by the statutes against livery and maintenance; and the break-up of the mediæval economic system had freed the serfs; while the change in the method of agriculture from cultivation to sheep-farming had lessened the demand for labour. How Welshmen and the Welsh language managed to survive in border towns, such as Talgarth, is a matter for marvel. It is a wonderful proof of the vitality and unconquerable spirit of the race. This spirit surviving in the modern Borderers of South Wales has won great military distinction. At one time the Welsh regiments held the record for military honours for courage, and the Great War did not find them wanting, in spite of the happier modern tendency to condemn needless slaughter and military madness generally. A leading Welshman has accurately noted the salient characteristic of his countrymen as "an irrepressible love of liberty," and this is as true to-day as it was in the days of Giraldus, who had noted the same spirit.

In the reign of Edward I. in 1282, the first Welsh counties were made analogous to those of England, but it was not until 1535 that Henry VIII. completed the modern Welsh counties, including Brecknock and Radnor, and abolished Marches and Lord-Marchers.

Later came Parliamentary representation and virtual equality with Englishmen. From the reign of Henry VIII. to that of William III., the seat of the Council of the Marches was at Ludlow (1).

T.R.P.

EDWARD'S WELSH SOLDIERS.

A favourite method of conquerors is to convert the conquered into soldiers. Just as the Cæsars sent a legion of younger Britons to Asia Minor, so Edward I. trained Welshmen to fight his battles. The Welsh were good archers. At the battle of Lewes the King's troops "were much harassed by Simon's light-armed Welsh archers, who lurked in every bush and thicket and inflicted severe losses upon them. . . . Edward's early defeats by the light-armed and nimble Welsh footmen taught him the value of a dexterous and daring irregular infantry, and suggested that policy of carrying on Welsh warfare like a grand siege which proved so irresistible in 1277 and 1282. Moreover, Edward paid a high tribute to the conquered Welsh in the large use which he made of them in all his subsequent campaigns, and notably in the wars in Scotland and Flanders." (13). "In 1283, during the wars of that period, Edward sent orders in every direction for food to be sent for his army, and a document of that time, recently discovered (1913) was addressed to the 'Mayor, men and merchants of Brecon, and to the men and merchants of Blaenllyfni, to bring their goods for sale to the coast of Merionethshire for the King's army' (Welsh Rolls, March 16th, 1283). An order was given to supply a fixed number of troops, and the Commissioners, Hugh Turberville and Grimbald Pauncefoot (the new lord of Crickhowell) were to receive assistance in their task of selecting their men as foot soldiers from the Bailiff of the lord in the respective area. The figures are interesting as furnishing a rough guide to the population of the areas :—

18th December, 1282.—Blaenllyfni, 100 men; Crickhowell, 100 men; Archenfeld, 100 men; Ewyas, 100 men.

3rd April, 1283.—Talgarth and Blaenllyfni, Fitzpeter, 100 men; Crickhowell, Pauncefoot, 100 men; Clifford, Giffard, 100

men; Bronllys, Giffard, 60 men; Hay, De Bohun, 60 men; Kington and Huntington, De Bohun, 60 men. (14).

Edward Morris's work, "Welsh Wars of Edward I.," makes it clear how proficient were the Welsh archers and how they were valued by Edward. The Marcher Welsh were the most accomplished archers of their day. Edward had 8,000 infantry in Flanders, just half of whom were Welsh. In the Scotch campaign of 1298, which ended at Falkirk, the King summoned 10,500 Welsh and not a single infantry soldier from all the northern counties of England. They went with Edward to Scotland as the flower of his infantry, the most experienced troops, and the best archers then available. These 10,000 came mainly from the lordships of the south, from Gwent, Glamorgan, Brecon, and Pembroke. English archery, as the world understands it, did not have its birth on the village greens round London, but on the banks of the Dee, the Wye, the Severn, and the Usk. Edward, says Morris, saw it was useless to apply his great organising powers to all the levies of the country, and he began with what was then the best material, the border counties and the Welsh March, and the men with or against whom he had fought so much. The two corps of longest and most distinguished service were one of 800 men from Gwent and Crickhowel, and a small company 100 strong from Macclesfield.

Giraldus tells us that William de Breos testified that one of his soldiers, in a conflict with the Welsh, was wounded by an arrow which passed through his thigh and the armour with which it was cased on both sides, and, through that part of the saddle which is called the *alva*, mortally wounded the horse. Another soldier had his hip, equally sheathed in armour, penetrated by an arrow quite to the saddle, and, on turning his horse round, received a similar wound on the opposite hip, which fixed him on both sides of his seat. What more could be expected from a ballista? Yet the bows used by these people are not made of horn, ivory or yew, but of wild elm; unpolished, rude and uncouth, but stout; not calculated to shoot an arrow to a great distance, but to inflict very severe wounds in close fight. Giraldus says the archers of Gwent were more accustomed to war, more famous for valour, more expert

in archery, than those of any other part of Wales, and cites a case which happened in his day, of the Welsh penetrating with their arrows the oaken panel of Abergavenny tower, which was four fingers thick; in memory of which circumstance the arrows were preserved in the gate.

FORESTS AND FOREST LAWS.

There are records of parks enclosed with palings at Clifford and Glasbury; and of three parks connected with Dinas or Porthamel, enclosed with stone walls or palings. Such place-names as The Park, The Lodge, and The Forest are reminders of the days when the hunting of the red deer was passionately followed. In the Glasbury Accounts Roll of 1305, 21 pence was recorded as paid in putura and customary offerings; and it is explained by Mrs. Dawson in her *Glasbury Notes* that putura was food for men, horses and hounds, exacted by keepers of a forest from the inhabitants.

There appears to have been three kinds of enclosures or preserved grounds, namely, forests, chases and warrens; but a forest might include a chase and a warren. The beasts of forest were the five wild beasts of venery, namely, hart, hind, hare, boar, and wolf. In the forest area, the common law was superseded by forest law, with excessive penalties. A manuscript of 1668 contains directions how Forest Courts are to be held. One of the articles directs all persons to be presented who are taken in any of four degrees, viz., stable-stand, dog-draw, back-bearend, bloody-hand. Stable-stand is defined to be that of a man found in the forest with his bow ready to shoot, or with his greyhound in a leash ready to let slip. Dog-draw meant tracking a wounded deer by means of a dog in a leash. Back-bearend was being caught in the act of carrying off the deer on his back. Bloody-hand was being found in the forest with blood on the hand. The forest officers were steward, foresters, verderers (recorders), regards (who enquired into offences), agisters (who let the pasturage), and woodwards. A charge called the pannage of hogs was made for pigs fed on acorns, etc., in the forest.

ENGLISH TALGARTH.

The distinction of English Talgarth from Welsh Talgarth, which obtains also in other instances, originated in the different states of the tenures after the English settlers had obtained possession of some estates in this country, and refers to the laws by which the occupiers were severally governed. Mr. Theophilus Jones says: In some of the lordships there were two courts, one for the English inhabitants, called *Englischeria*, or the rights of an Englishman, and *Wallescheria*, or the rights of a Welshman; the former were abolished in the reign of Edward the Third. Mr. Gough, in his "*Camden*," observes that strictly speaking both these terms were applied to the untimely death of any person; and if he was not known, or the manner of his death notorious, an inquisition was to be made, whether he was an Englishman or a Welshman, upon which the coroner and his jury were to determine *super visum corporis*. Our lawyers (Reeve) derive the origin of *Englischerie* from an ancient law of Canute, who, being about to leave the Kingdom, and afraid the English might take advantage of his absence to oppress and destroy his native subjects, procured the following law, in order to prevent homicides; that when any person was killed, and the slayer escaped, the person killed should always be considered to be a Dane, unless proved by his friends and relations to be English; and in default of such proof that the ville should pay 40 marks for the Dane's death; and if it could not be raised within the ville, that then the hundred should pay it; this singular, but oppressive, provision, it was thought would engage every one in the prevention or prosecution of such secret offences. It is probable the presentment of *Welsherie* was founded on a like policy.

There were also in some lordships a mixture or jumble of the laws of both countries. Thus Leland tells us "*Blaen Lleven* (*Blaenllyfni* in Breconshire) though it be in *Welsche* Talgarth, yet the tenants kepe the *Englische* tenure." So also in English and Welsh Penkelly, English and Welsh Hay, and many others, lands are frequently said to be holden by English tenure, but by Welsh *dole*—*Cyfraeth Saesneg a rhan Cymraeg*; and here the lord had

the wardship of all the children, both sons and daughters; in many lordships none of the Welsh customs were permitted to be retained, but the English laws entirely prevailed; the whole jurisdiction in fact depended upon the will of the first conqueror. (21). (18).

The lord's wardship was a source of profit. Until the ward reached the age of 21 years in the case of a male heir, or 16 years in the case of a female heir, the lord had all the profits of the lands, and was not bound to render an account of them, while he was at liberty to assign or sell his guardianship. He was also entitled to dispose of his wards, male and female, in marriage, and if they refused the match they forfeited a sum equal to the "value of the marriage." . . . But when nothing save the name and the hardship of feudalism remained, the Court of Wards and Liveries was erected, and the scandals and abuses to which its jurisdiction gave rise under the Tudors and first two Stuarts speedily assumed the proportions of an intolerable grievance. This Court was ended in 1656. (1).

It will be understood how this system of wardship practically handed Welsh lands to Englishmen by the marriage of Welsh heiresses, and how powerful an instrument it was in degrading Welshmen.

Sir William Vaughan, of Porthamel, was the first Sheriff for the County, after the introduction of the English laws (Henry VIII). The property belongs at present (1815) to the Earl of Ashburnham, the first lord of that name having acquired it by marriage with the heiress. (18).

WELSH TALGARTH.

Though Bronllys was so near Talgarth, its lord does not appear to have exercised direct authority over the Talgarthians, who were for many years ruled from Blaenllyfni. The visitor to-day may have some difficulty in finding the ruins of Blaenllyfni Castle. Little but the foundations remain; and desolation rules where once De Breos in his pride was lord paramount.

Leland, writing in 1563, says:—Blaen Lleven in sum ancient writings is caullid Everi Castel, and Lleven Water caullid Everi Brooke.

The honor of Blain Lleven iii miles from Penkelhe, and v from Breknok, and within a mile of the mere, standing in a valley ys in the Walsch Talegarth, wher is yet the shape of a very fair castel now dekei yng and by was borow town now also in decay. Both longgid to the Erle of Marche. Though Blaine Lleven be in the Walsch Talegarth, yet the tenauntes kepe the Englysche tenor. Llangors lordship in Talgarth is a member to Blaen Lleveny.

In the Walsche Talegarth is no notable town nor castel besides thes. Lleveny riseith in Walsche Talegarth hard by Blain Lleveny.

Professor Lloyd says:—Blaenllynfi (or Blaenllyfni) Castle is now only represented by ruins, situated on the lake side between Llangorse and Bwlch. It was a Norman castle, held by De Breos, lord of Brecon. In 1248, Reginald Fitz-Peter was lord of Dinas, and Blaenllynfi, in succession to his brother, Herbert (1235 to 1248), and his father, Peter Fitz-Herbert. The lordship was reckoned a third of the barony of Brecknock, and included Talgarth and Llangorse. Reginald held it until his death 1286. An entry in the Charter Rolls shows that Hugh Turbeville held Crickhowell (or Ystrad Yw Isaf), of Reginald as a mesne lordship. It appears that Peter Fitz Herbert was a constant companion of the King (John) of England, one of his evil councillors it was thought, and he received a third part of the lordship of Brecknock, with the castle of Blaenllynfi. He benefited by the fall of William De Breos, who had been for thirty years the leading figure in Norman South Wales, until John made up his mind to ruin him. Giles de Breos, Bishop of Hereford, who had been under interdict and in exile in Ireland, had not forgotten the cruel persecution of his house, the death of his father in poverty abroad, the wasting end of his mother and eldest brother in a Windsor dungeon. King John had at first shown a disposition to treat him well and had granted him the Breos lands in England and in Wales, but had then delayed the fulfilment of his promise until the bishop's heart was

ripe for rebellion. About the middle of May, Giles sent his brother Reginald to the Marches with orders to join the Welsh in an attack upon the constables who held the Breos castles for the King; in this way, Pencelli, Abergavenny, Whitecastle, and Skenfrith, were won, and when the bishop himself appeared upon the scene, the still more important strongholds of Brecon, Hay, Radnor, Builth, and Blaenllynfi were regained for the family, which had held them for so many years. It was Reginald de Breos who married Gwladus the dark-eyed daughter of Llewelyn the Great, in token of the alliance between the house of Breos and the Welsh, erstwhile the most obstinate of foes. Thus Elfael, once the theatre of bloody strife between the two races, was left, with its castles of Painscastle and Colwyn, to be occupied by the Welsh under Gwalter ab Einon Clud. (6).

PARISH FEASTS AND FAIRS.

The Rev. W. E. T. Morgan, B.A., vicar of Llanigon, has kindly furnished a few particulars with regard to the old Llanigon Feast. The Parish Feast no doubt at one time had a religious side to it, and probably began by a service in church. This unfortunately was discontinued, and only the parochial festivities remained. They had to do with a commemoration of the founder of the church, or of the saint to whose memory the church was founded. The Llanigon Parish Feast used to be held on the 20th September, if that day fell on a Sunday; and, if not, on the Sunday following. (The Iolo MSS. I believe state that St. Eigen's Feast was observed on the 10th September).

Several of the old inhabitants remember well the keeping of the feast. On the appointed day all the men and boys congregated together in the field adjoining the White Swan Inn, now the blacksmith's shop. Women used to bring up baskets of cakes from Hay, and sell them about the field. Jugs of ale were freely handed round. All the young men and women who were away in service used to return home for these festivities. A good deal of wrestling and fighting went on. Big rings were formed in Maesllan, and in the Penywrold meadow on the other side of the brook. The church bells were rung, and the porch was often strewn with pots and cups and broken glasses. Beer was drunk

ad lib. There was then a public house, the Sun Inn, in what is now known as the Church House, which was afterwards moved across the road to the present shop. On Monday all the women and children joined the festivities, and all indulged in dancing to the strains of the harp and fiddle. All kinds of the choicest viands were cooked for the feast. There was also much cock-fighting, and Rhoda Newall, the oldest inhabitant, declares that when she was quite a child she remembers on one occasion seeing a bull baited in Maesllan. A number of dogs were set on the bull, which roared and ran about the field harried by the dogs, 'a barbarous work,' as she remarked. The feast was kept up for a whole week. On Monday and Tuesday the riff-raff danced at the two public-houses; and on Wednesday night the farmers' sons and daughters had a great ball. The feast began to die away in the Rev. G. Dowell's time, and was wholly abandoned about 35 years ago (1885), when the Rev. W. J. Thomas was vicar of the parish.

There is also an account of this feast in Folk-Lore Vol. xxiv. No. 4, for December, 1913, given by Miss E. B. Thomas, Llanthomas. It differs somewhat from my account, and adds more particulars, so I append it:—

"This feast took place on the first Sunday after the 20th September. In the words of a villager—Farmers would give milk on Saturday in earthen jars, according to what they could spare. At Pot Street (village lane) there was a bigish arch, going down to the two houses, and a big oven facing the road; two women could bake in it at a time, and heps of rice pudding and apple tarts were made there agen the feast; and if you had any ducks before the feast, they was gone, unless they was locked up. The blacksmith's shop was then a public, and seats were all round the wych-elm there, and a table with drink, and a woman 'ould come up with cakes and nuts from Hay and sell them. All this went on on a Sunday. Cakes and nuts were sold again on Monday. Young people mostly come on the Sunday, and every servant 'ould come home for the feast. On Monday night farmers and married people 'ould go and dance—old Betty Humphreys and old Rhoda Newall; the latter would bring servant fellers from Court o Llowes. People would come from the two publics, and begin to wrestle and fight. The orchard at the blacksmith's shop was just full of men. At one fight old Nancy Walker carried her husband a quart of beer, and said 'Fight on Jack, I'll carry thee bones home in my apron before thee be beaten.' Old blind

Hughkin played the fiddle at these Feasts for the people to dance, and his daughters did carry it, and often played at the Swan. A blind harper from the Harp at Glasbury played the harp at these Feasts, and carried it by a string on his back.' Then followed a description of the dances."

W.E.T.M.

This Feast was no doubt typical of numerous others held in the neighbourhood. We know that at Llanellieu and Bronllys such Feasts expired only within living memory. These Feasts were sometimes associated with Fairs, held under the authority of the local lord, or under an ecclesiastic who received the tolls. Thus St. Giles's Fair at Winchester, at first open for three days, became a sixteen-day Fair under the control of the bishop, who appointed his own mayor, bailiff and coroner for the period, and compelled all the town traders to attend the Fair, unless with his permission they traded elsewhere. Fairs at Feasts, called also Church Ales, led to desecration of the churchyards, and were ultimately placed under control and granted under statute.

In connection with the lord's Fair arose the Court of Pie Powder (French *Pied poudrè*, and Scottish *Dusty-fute*, meaning pedlar). This Court, says Chitty, was the lowest but most expeditious Court of Justice in the Kingdom. The lord presided, and was sometimes assisted by a jury of traders; and the cases were confined to Fair matters, disputes, order, slander of wares, etc. (1.)

T.R.P.

POPULATION OF THE DISTRICT.

The following statistics of the population of the district with which this book mainly deals are, with one exception, taken from the Decennial Census Reports of the period 1801 to 1911, and relate to Talgarth parish and nine others, adjoining and adjacent. They show, directly, for the period named, the fluctuations of the population of each parish; whilst comparison of the parishes is readily made upon examination of their areas.

The area of the County of Brecon—defined in recent censuses as the "Ancient County"—is given, on Ordnance Survey authority for the purposes of the census of 1911, as 475,228 acres. The figures of the Tithe Survey, which appear to have been those

used for the Reports of 1851-1881, were 460,158 acres. Theophilus Jones, in his History of the County, gives, on the authority of the Board of Agriculture, 1794, an estimate of 515,000 acres.

The "Ancient County" here referred to appears to be identical with the "Parliamentary County" of the Census Report of 1911, and it may be noted for the guidance of readers who may desire to consult census statistics that there are, also, an "Administrative County" (which corresponds to the "County" of the Ordnance Survey Maps and Tables), and a "Registration County." The former of these is 469,281 acres in extent, and the latter, 473,080 acres.

The following figures show the population of the "Ancient County" at the decennial years 1801 to 1911 :—

1801	.....	32,325	...	1861	.....	61,627
1811	.....	37,735	...	1871	.....	59,901
1821	.....	43,826	...	1881	.....	57,746
1831	.....	47,763	...	1891	.....	57,031
1841	.....	55,603	...	1901	.....	59,907
1851	.....	61,474	...	1911	.....	65,999

The area of the Talgarth district, with which we are here more particularly concerned—comprising the parishes of Aberllynfi, Bronllys, Llanellieu, Llandefalle, Llangorse, Llanvillo (with Llandefaelog Tregraig), Llyswen, Pipton and Talgarth—is 37,816 acres, or between 1-12th and 1-13th of the county area of any Ordnance Survey definition.

The population of the district at the decennial years 1801-1911 may be taken at the following figures—

	Approx.			Approx.
1801	 3,294	...	1861	 3,493
1811	 3,475	...	1871	 3,624
1821	 3,574	...	1881	 3,387
1831	 3,829	...	1891	 3,183
1841	 3,570	...	1901	 3,277
1851	 3,579	...	1911	 3,556

It will be seen that, whilst the population of the county has slightly more than doubled itself in 110 years, that of our district

at the close of the period is greater, by 262 only, than it was at its beginning.

It is startling, too, to find that the figures of 1891 and 1901 are lower than those of 1801, and that the highest figures of the period are those of 1831.

The following table, which embodies the foregoing statistics, with the numbers of the population of England and Wales in the years already quoted, shows the position of the district in its relation to the county and the country :—

		District.		County.		England & Wales.
		Approx.				
1801	.....	3,294	...	32,325	...	8,892,536
1811	.....	3,475	...	37,735	...	10,164,256
1821	.....	3,574	...	43,826	...	12,000,236
1831	.....	3,829	...	47,763	...	13,896,797
1841	.....	3,570	...	55,603	...	15,914,148
1851	.....	3,579	...	61,474	...	17,927,609
1861	.....	3,493	...	61,627	...	20,066,224
1871	.....	3,624	...	59,901	...	22,712,266
1881	.....	3,387	...	57,746	...	25,974,439
1891	.....	3,183	...	57,031	...	29,002,525
1901	.....	3,277	...	59,907	...	32,527,843
1911	.....	3,556	...	65,999	...	36,070,492

Before referring to the figures of the Decennial Censuses which are taken to illustrate the question of the population of the several parishes of our district those of the exception already mentioned may be considered. They are given in Theophilus Jones's History as Appendix No. I. (Vol. I. 1805), which is entitled "State of the Population of the County of Brecon in 1673, as appears from a Return made by the Churchwardens to a Commission issued by the Archbishop of Canterbury in that year."

The fact that this Return, which was designed to show the numbers of "Papists and Dissenters" in this country, was made by Churchwardens (who may be presumed to have been well acquainted with their parishes), would indicate that the figures recorded therein may be considered trustworthy, but certainly some of them are surprising. For instance, Brecon (the parishes of St. John and St.

Mary) had then 449 inhabitants, and Talgarth 440; Llanigon had 330, and Hay 116; Llanvillo had 232, and Llandefalle 140. The subjects of the Return, so far as differentiation is made, were those inhabitants—mainly Independents and Baptists—who were not members of the Established Church, and, as such, were, probably, regarded by His Grace of Canterbury as religious “undesirables”; but the statistician of to-day, be he Churchman, or Roman Catholic, or Dissenter, will, no doubt, receive the Return with thankfulness, since it provides him with interesting figures which would be otherwise difficult to obtain.

The total number of the inhabitants of the County, as given in the Return, is 13,311—which is increased by Jones, on account of some supposed omissions, to 13,496. The total numbers of Papists and Dissenters are, respectively, 156 and 682.

The present-day parishes of Aberllynfi, Pipton and Llan-elieu are not mentioned in the Return. Following are the figures for those parishes of our district which are named. It will be seen from them that our Papists and Dissenters were to those of the County as 1 to 78, and 1 to 5:—

Parish	Number	Papists	Dissenters
Bronllys	102	2	5
Llandevallle	140	0	13
Llangorse	132	0	33
Llanvillo	232	0	2
Llyswen	57	0	3
Talgarth	440	0	80
	1,103	2	136

It may be said here that Talgarth had then the second largest Dissenter population in the county, Vaynor coming first with 110.

The following parochial statistics have been extracted from the Decennial Censuses undertaken by the Government, and readers who are interested in the subject may be referred to the State Reports thereon. All the parishes which fall within our survey, excepting Llanvillo and Llandefaelog Tregraig (which are in the Hundred of Penkelly), are in the Hundred of Talgarth.

I.—ABERLLYNFI PARISH—658 Acres.

1801	—	...	1861	1132
1811	—	...	1871	121
1821	1100	...	1881	151
1831	125	...	1891	152
1841	116	...	1901	154
1851	102	...	1911	155

This parish appears separately in the Census Reports for the first time in 1821; in the Censuses of 1801 and 1811 it was returned as part of the parish of Glasbury.

II.—BRONLLYS PARISH—2187 Acres.

1801	294	...	1861	305
1811	316	...	1871	314
1821	306	...	1881	301
1831	286	...	1891	297
1841	338	...	1901	304
1851	330	...	1911	321

The Census of 1921 will show a considerable increase of population in consequence of the establishment of the Pontywal Sanatorium.

III.—LLANELIEU PARISH—5615 Acres.

1801	113	...	1861	93
1811	122	...	1871	91
1821	127	...	1881	88
1831	115	...	1891	82
1841	1103	...	1901	53
1851	111	...	1911	60

IV.—LLANDEFALLE PARISH—7719 Acres.

1801	724	...	1861	687
1811	746	...	1871	669
1821	682	...	1881	584
1831	838	...	1891	495
1841	705	...	1901	446
1851	704	...	1911	434

This parish includes—by Local Government Order—as

from 1st October, 1911, the civil parish of Trawscoed (area, 922 acres), at which date the total population was 481.

V.—LLANGORSE PARISH—3591 Acres.

1801	383	...	1861	414
1811	351	...	1871	403
1821	478	...	1881	354
1831	405	...	1891	340
1841	401	...	1901	327
1851	401	...	1911	326

The population of Llandefaelog Tregraig at 1921 was included in the Return for this parish.

VI.—LLANDEFAELOG TREGRAIG PARISH—565 Acres.

1801	36	...	1861	38
1811	48	...	1871	37
1821	—	...	1881	39
1831	47	...	1891	36
1841	35	...	1901	24
1851	38	...	1911	—

The population here at 1821 was included in the Return for the parish of Llangorse.

The parish was transferred by Local Government Order to Llanvillo on 1st October, 1904.

VII.—LLANVILLO PARISH—2,731 Acres.

1801	300	...	1871	263
1811	319	...	1871	269
1821	297	...	1881	215
1831	327	...	1891	205
1841	300	...	1901	201
1851	307	...	1911	220

The Census Report issued in 1852 states that no Return was made for this parish in 1801, and an estimated figure of 300 has, therefore, been given.

Llandefaelog Tregraig forms part of this parish as from 1st October, 1904.

VIII.—LLYSWEN PARISH—1081 Acres.

1801	137	...	1861	226
1811	168	...	1871	203
1821	140	...	1881	198
1831	202	...	1891	168
1841	172	...	1901	226
1851	225	...	1911	214

IX.—PIPTON PARISH—1376 Acres.

1801	111	...	1861	111
1811	94	...	1871	109
1821	152	...	1881	105
1831	140	...	1891	90
1841	129	...	1901	76
1851	139	...	1911	65

X.—TALGARTH PARISH—12,294 Acres.

1801	1059	...	1861	1224
1811	1200	...	1871	1408
1821	1292	...	1881	1352
1831	1344	...	1891	1318
1841	1271	...	1901	1466
1851	1222	...	1911	1761

The Grwyne hamlets are not included in the figures given above. The Census Report of 1871 attributes the increase of population in that year to the extension of the Mid-Wales Railway and the establishment of a market. The increase recorded in the Return for 1911 is largely attributable to the establishment at Chancefield of the Brecon, Radnor and Montgomery Counties Mental Hospital, which began to admit patients in 1903.

The following table gives the numbers of "Inhabited Houses" in the district in 1801 and 1901 :—

	1801	1901
Aberllynfi	20 (estimated)	33
Bronllys	59	71
Llanelieu	25	10
Llandefalle	137	95
Llangorse	78	77

	1801	1901
Llandefaelog Tregraig	5 (estimated)	4
Llanvillo	69	47
Llyswen	28	53
Pipton	24	19
Talgarth	226	316

The statistics of population and dwellings here presented show that our district is, in these particulars, scarcely affected by the increase in the country generally, and also that six of its parishes "stand lower than they did" a century ago, and, being so largely agricultural, there is little prospect of much change for years to come.

E. E. MORGAN.

AGRICULTURE IN THE TALGARTH DISTRICT.

This particular part of Breconshire known as the Talgarth Hundred has been famed for progressive farming for a very considerable time. Whether the farmers in this district originated the systems of farming pursued, or obtained their ideas from the adjoining English counties, is not quite clear; but it is reasonable to suppose that there was a certain amount of intercourse between the farmers in this region and those across the border, and that the experiences and practices of one would consequently influence the other.

It is somewhat difficult to picture the state of agriculture in this district from the period of its occupation by the old Britons. At the coming of the Normans, and for a long period afterwards, we may safely assume that a large area of this district was covered with wood and water-logged. In the first instances man cultivated the higher lands—lands which were clear of wood, and dry. He selected open patches of land, cultivated and planted them, and protected his crops with temporary and very primitive fences. Work never seems to have been congenial to mankind, and it was only stress of circumstances which compelled man to reclaim the lower lands, and bring them into cultivation. After reclamation the superior fertility of the lowlands became apparent, and decided man's preference for the low valley lands.

The principal Manor in the Hundred of Talgarth was
 "Dynas, with its Members, Parcels of the March Counties."



Ruins of Castell Dinas, 1920.

This Manor extended over a considerable area, and embraced the smaller Manors of Mara, Dynas Forest, and one or two others. The land was parcelled out into demesne lands, or what might be termed

the home-farm. Portions were farmed by "free tenants," who were, most probably, the principal officers of the Manor, and were granted land for their services, but who paid certain small rents in specie. Another section of the Manor was in the hands of "customary tenants," who paid rents in kind, such as corn, cattle, sheep, pigs, butter, cheese, etc. Customary tenants also did a certain proportion of the planting and harvest work on the home-farm. There were also a certain number of persons in the Manor who occupied small strips of land, and cultivated those strips much in the same manner as allotment holders of the present day, but grew a less variety of crops. These men did not pay rents in specie or kind, but paid their dues by rendering their services on the home-farm. The remainder of the land was common, or waste.

After the Norman conquest, Dinas was held by the Lords Marchers until forfeited to the Crown on the attainder of the Earl of March. Originally, the Manor was farmed chiefly as demesne lands, but during the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries the demesne lands gradually diminished and were granted to tenants to farm. The feudal Baron became a landlord. The relation between landlord and tenant also changed. Instead of growing grain to supply the Baron and his household, the tenant grew corn and disposed of it to commercial men, who, in turn, converted it into breadstuffs to feed the inhabitants of the towns. Labour services were dispensed with by commuting them into money payments. The cultivation of the home-farm was, henceforth, performed by hired servants. In Mr. John Lloyd's *Memoranda of Breconshire*, we find that, by 1520, this transformation was practically accomplished on Dinas Manor. It is stated, however, that portions of the demesne lands were in the hands of the Crown reeve for lack of farmers. In 1520 part of the land was let to tenants who paid their rents quarterly, but the terms of their tenancies are not disclosed. Other portions of land were let or leased for a term of years.

The portion of the home-farm is not easy to locate. Two sites may be suggested, one in the vicinity of Dinas Castle, which was a stronghold of importance, and occupied by the Lords Marchers; the other, Porthamel. Speed, in his map of Breconshire, published in 1608, credits Porthamel with one of the two parks then

existing in the county, and possibly this was the centre of the life of the Manor at that period. In Theophilus Jones's *History of Breconshire*, it is stated that Dinas was alienated or sold by the Crown during the reign of James I. "Mara"—the Llangorse district—seems to have been largely covered with Forests. We also find that a large area in the neighbourhood of Llyswen was covered with wood, and for the most part a bog. Malkin, writing in 1803, states that this section was reclaimed in the years 1790 to 1800, a lady—Mrs. Macnamara—being chiefly responsible for the direction and supervision of the work. Dinas Forest was true to name; practically the whole of the district from Dinas Castle to Cwmduboundary was forest pure and simple, and served no other useful purpose than supporting a few pigs, goats, and geese, providing wood for fuel, particularly fuel for "the brewings of the town of Tallegarth," and yielded nuts, honey and wax. What may be regarded as attempts at reducing this inhospitable region to the more useful service of mankind took place in the seventeenth century, although the natives set about the work in an irregular manner and were a source of trouble to the ruling authorities. In 1687 several persons appeared at Brecon Quarter Sessions for encroachment and erecting cottages on the common lands at Dinas Forest, Talgarth.

From 1700 onwards improvements of a far-reaching character took place in agriculture. It was during this period that land was reclaimed, drained and cultivated. The growing of clover, and, latterly, of roots, greatly increased the productive capacity of the soil, and, consequently, the farmers profits. Malkin (1803) states that at Trefecca several farms were held under leases; and, under the direction of Howel Harris, greatly increased in value. He anticipated that when the leases fell in the rents of those farms would be substantially increased. Mr. Harris travelled considerably through different parts of England, and, no doubt, from time to time brought back different ideas regarding farming, and put into practice, on the Trefecca farms, the best systems which he had discovered in his travels. Naturally those systems travelled beyond the boundaries of the farms under his supervision, and although Mr. Harris is not regarded as a pioneer in improved farming, nevertheless, he, in common with several other gentlemen particularly interested in the agriculture of the county, was partly responsible for the efficient

state of farming in the Talgarth district, described by the Board of Agriculture's reporter in 1794. It is recorded that Mr. Harris suggested to Sir Edward Williams, of Gwernyfed, the desirability of forming a society for the improvement of agriculture, and the outcome of that conversation was the formation of the Breconshire Agricultural Society in March, 1755. This conversation between Mr. Harris and Sir Edward Williams appears from Mr. Rhys Davies's *Historical Notes* to have taken place at what was probably a "ploughing competition," or "ploughing demonstration," on Glancath Farm, Trefecca, in the autumn of 1754.

In the Bronllys and Llyswen districts portions of land were cultivated under the "Common field" system up to about 1860, when the common fields were enclosed. With these two exceptions the whole district appears to have been parcelled out to separate occupiers, and for the most part divided into small enclosures. Clark, in his Report to the Board of Agriculture in 1794, on the Agriculture of Breconshire, speaks very highly of the methods practised by the majority of farmers in the Hundred of Talgarth. At that period they had attained a high degree of efficiency in the matter of cropping their arable land. They understood the "theory of rotations" apparently better than some of our present-day farmers. The rotation followed by the better-informed farmers was—1st year, wheat; 2nd year, peas; 3rd year, barley; 4th year, clover. Sometimes the land remained in clover for a fifth year, and the cycle was then repeated. Root crops do not figure in the above rotation, although their cultivation had been introduced through the efforts of the Breconshire Agricultural Society in offering premiums for the best cultivated crops in the county. In this respect it is noticed that the first and third premiums appear to have been won in the year 1759 by farmers in the Talgarth Hundred. In the matter of ploughing and fencing, Clark states that the farmers and their employes were experts, qualifications which have been handed down to the present generation unimpaired. It is said that the fences were erected with curves for the purpose of providing shelter for stock. In those days farm buildings were small, and most probably very inadequate, consequently shelter was an essential element to be provided for in erecting fences. Crooked fences, however, were a hindrance, especially when they surrounded arable

fields; and we find that a number of these irregular fences have disappeared, and have been supplemented by straight, and, in general, beautifully trimmed hedgerows.

Irrigation, although almost unknown and practically a lost art to the present race of farmers, was well known and widely practised by their forefathers. On nearly every farm, traces of the efforts made to flood the meadows are still to be found. Water, especially during floods, was conducted on to the meadows by every means at the farmers' disposal. Weirs were erected on the rivers Enig and Llynfi, and trenches made to conduct the water on to the land. Water from the farmyards, wherever possible, was conducted on to the meadows. In this manner plant food was carried to the pastures, both in solution and in very finely divided particles, and there deposited for future absorption. The rich verdure of a number of the best meadows in the Hundred is attributable, in a large measure, to their irrigation in former years. To-day it cannot be too strongly impressed upon the present occupiers of all pastures which can be irrigated, the advisability of becoming acquainted with, and adopting, the practice which enabled their predecessors to improve the yield of their meadows when artificial manures were unknown.

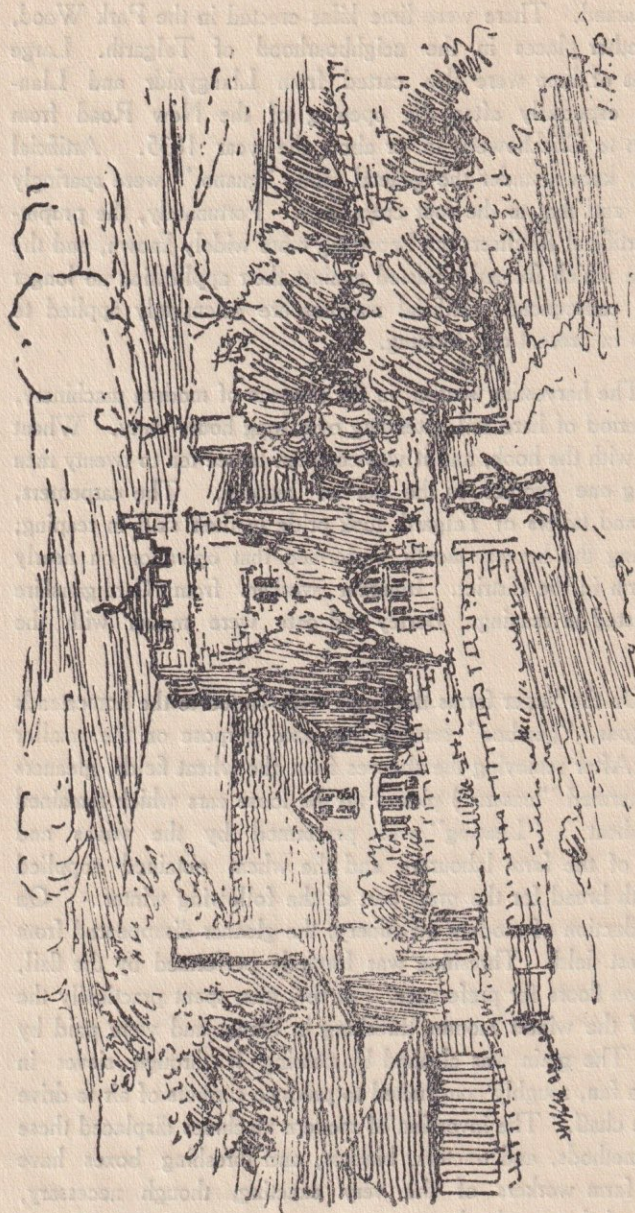
The soil is derived from the Old Red Sandstone formation of rocks. In the neighbourhood of Llyswen, two formations meet, namely, the Silurian and Old Red Sandstone, and the soil is a mixture of both. The soil in the Hundred is rich and deep, except on some of the higher ground where it is liable to be washed away during severe storms. The cultivated land varies in altitude from 300 to over 1,000 feet above Ordnance datum. Extremely good crops of all cereals are grown, and some very fine crops of roots are produced in the district. Under the old system of farming the land was periodically fallowed. In the spring and summer months the fallow land was ploughed and cultivated, and planted with wheat in the succeeding autumn. The "bare fallow" system was a popular method of preparing land for wheat crops, until wheat prices sharply declined in the latter half of the last century.

Lime was the chief fertiliser applied. The deposits of Cornstones in the district supplied the stone from which the lime

was obtained. There were lime kilns erected in the Park Wood, and at other places in the neighbourhood of Talgarth. Large quantities of lime were also carted from Llangynidr and Llangattock, especially after the opening of the New Road from Talgarth to Crickhowell, in or about the year 1835. Artificial manures, known under the general term, "guano," were sparingly applied, and that to the root crops only. Fortunately, the properties of artificial fertilisers are becoming more widely known, and the prejudice which formerly existed against their application no longer remains, consequently artificial manures are extensively applied to all crops in present-day farming.

The harvesting season, in the absence of modern machinery, was a period of hard toil extending over long hours daily. Wheat was cut with the hook, and it was common to see ten to twenty men following one another in the act of reaping. The carpenters, masons and tailors of Talgarth took pride in their skill in reaping; and during the harvest month performed that operation on nearly every farm in the district. Itinerant workers from Cardiganshire also assisted in reaping. Barley and oats were mown with the scythe.

On the larger farms the crops were carted to the homesteads on waggons, "gambos" serving the same purpose on the smaller farms. After removing the sheaves from the wheat fields, gleaners (locally termed "leasers") picked up the loose ears which remained of the wheat. "Leasing" was performed by the wives and children of the farm labourers, and the wheat obtained supplied them with bread for the great part of the following winter. On the introduction of modern machinery, the gleaner disappeared from the harvest field. Threshing was formerly performed by the flail, on wooden floors for preference. A few men spent practically the whole of the winter months threshing in barns, and were paid by results. The grain was cleaned by passing it through sieves in front of a fan, roughly constructed to produce currents of air to drive away the chaff. The invention of modern machines displaced these manual methods, and tractors, binders, and threshing boxes have relieved farm workers of the very exacting, though necessary, practices of those early days.



Great Porthamel, Galgarrth.

Formerly farmers devoted more attention to arable farming; but low prices for corn, in combination with a moist climate, have induced them to take up stock-raising, and a more pastoral system of farming, and it is in the matter of stock breeding that the present race excels.

HORSES.—Some very fine specimens of heavy horses have been bred and sold from this district. Premiums for stallions were offered by the Breconshire Agricultural Society in its early years of existence, with the result that good horses were bred locally. In 1874 six horses realised over £100 each at a sale at Porthamel. Other breeders were equally successful. Talgarth fairs have been held in high repute as a sale for horses of all classes.

CATTLE.—The original native cattle were, most probably, those commonly bred by the Tribes in Wales. We gather from "*Records of a North Wales Manor*" that the bull desired was a white one with red ears. Whether this type of animal was noted for his flesh-producing capabilities or whether his progeny were best adapted for draught purposes, or most suitable for dairy purposes we are not told; but evidently early attempts were made to improve the original cattle by selection, and fixation of colour and markings were desirable characteristics. Clark, writing at a much later period (1794), states that the native cattle, in the Talgarth Hundred, were far from satisfactory, and that the introduction of the Hereford had proved a failure. He thought that the Castlemartin or Devon would succeed if given a fair trial. Theophilus Jones, writing at a still later date, stated that the Glamorganshire and Hereford breeds had greatly improved the native cattle by crossing with sires of those breeds. It is difficult to understand Clark's statement regarding the Hereford. To-day it is the most popular breed in the district, and its popularity rests entirely on its success as a rent-paying animal. Large droves of Castlemartin cattle passed through Breconshire annually, on their way to the English markets, but this breed does not appear to have had any influence on the native cattle except in north Breconshire. The Glamorganshire breed, prior to the advent of the Hereford, appears to have been the one which exerted the greatest influence in the district. Until recently many cattle were to be seen which exhibited the peculiar dorsal markings

of the Glamorganshire breed. These cattle have disappeared, and the Hereford is the prevailing breed at present. Pedigree Hereford breeding has not been taken up to the extent it might have been, although a few good herds have existed in the district, notably the Porthamel herd dispersed in 1890, the Bronllys Court herd dispersed in 1894, and the Trevithel herd dispersed in October, 1919. There are a few good herds still existing in the Hundred.

SHEEP.—Early writers give the impression that there were few sheep in the Hundred apart from the mountain breeds. This is hardly correct, for, although a few lowland farmers occupied holdings adjoining the Black Mountains with a view to acquiring grazing rights, yet there were many farmers who did not possess such rights, and would need a bigger type of sheep than that adapted for the mountain. The Ryeland appears to have been the favourite breed for lowlands, and in the middle of last century there was a good flock of Ryelands at Tregunter. The Radnor and Welsh breeds predominated, and thousands of these sheep roamed the Black Mountains up to the years 1879 and 1880. These were very wet seasons, and proved disastrous to flock owners. Many farmers lost nearly all the sheep they possessed. The interest in sheep breeding also vanished at the same time, and the quantities of mutton and wool produced annually on the Black Mountains are now almost infinitesimal compared with the years prior to 1880. The sheep were all washed in natural pools, or pools artificially made out of the mountain streams. Shepherds and all farm workers wended their way to the pools on sheep-washing day. Sheep shearing was the event of greatest importance in the flockmaster's yearly round of toil. Each farm was allotted its own particular day for shearing, and if the flock was of any importance, thirty, forty or even more men and boys laboured from early morn to sunset, clipping off and gathering up the snow-white fleeces. Finally, the master's brand was affixed to the sheep ("pitched"), and back those hardy little animals went to their mountain haunts for another season.

In the breeding of commercial stock the farmers excel, and large numbers of cattle and sheep are sold annually at Talgarth fairs to go into the English counties for fattening and breeding purposes. A limited number of cattle are fattened, but in the matter of feeding

the main interest centres in the production of fat lambs. Large numbers of these lambs are disposed of weekly in the local mart, and are sent into the large industrial centres of South Wales for consumption. Considerable attention is also paid to the raising of smaller products such as butter, cheese, poultry, vegetables and fruit. The culture of apples, pears and plums receives attention, but not to the extent it deserves in view of the possibilities of the district, and the advantages it derives from its proximity to the South Wales markets. Large quantities of whimberries and blackberries are gathered in the district.

During recent years important changes have taken place in land tenure. Formerly the dual system of landlord and tenant was almost universal, but within the last three or four years a number of tenants have acquired their own farms. A few estates still remain, and on these the tenants occupy their farms on annual tenancies. The lease system of tenure does not appear to have attained any appreciable degree of popularity in the Talgarth district.

In taking a survey of Talgarth, we find that although great improvements in farming followed the introduction of the growth of green crops, greater improvements followed the advent of modern implements. The Threshing Box, introduced through Monmouthshire by an ironmonger at Crickhowell, about 1850, was the forerunner of all the modern machines with which we are familiar. And it is to a more extensive use of labour-saving devices, coupled with a wider knowledge of the soil and its requirements, together with a keener and more widespread interest taken in stock breeding, that we look forward to the farmers of the Talgarth Hundred maintaining a premier position in Breconshire, in all matters relating to agriculture.

R. PROSSER,

THE FLORA OF BRECONSHIRE.

By the Flora of any area is meant the aggregate of all species of plants growing spontaneously in that area. It includes not only Flowering plants, but also Ferns and their allies, Mosses, and their allies, Lichens, Fungi and Algae. In general, however, it is only Flowering Plants and the Ferns that one has in mind when the term is used here in speaking of the Flora of Breconshire.

Now it must be first noted that the county of Brecon is not, any more than many other counties of Great Britain, a convenient geographical area with natural boundaries, except in the north-east where the Wye separates it from Radnor. Situated for the most part in the upper valleys of the Usk and Wye, it includes also in the south the uppermost portions (blaenau) of the valleys of several rivers which belong to Monmouth and Glamorgan. Such are, proceeding from east to west, the Rhymney, Taff (Taff-Fechan and Taff-Fawr), Neath, and Tawe. These regions are more or less severed from the rest of the county, and are only approached from the Usk valley by means of the passes over the Beacons. A similar, but not quite so detached an area, is the Irvon valley in the north. This is separated from the central region by the Eppynt Hills, and is only reached from the Usk valley by means of its tributary the Honddu, or by crossing over into the Llynfi valley and following up the gorge of the Wye to the point where it is joined by the Irvon near Builth. For the purpose, therefore, of a botanical survey, the county might conveniently be sub-divided into three regions, based on these geographical features. It will be found, moreover, that this sub-division corresponds roughly with the prevailing geological distribution of the rocks; and the names might be assigned on this ground. The region would thus be—

1. The Silurian or Northern region, consisting more or less of the isolated Irvon valley;
2. The Old Red Sandstone or Central region, consisting of the Usk valley and the Llynfi portion of the Wye valley;
3. The Limestone or Southern region, consisting of the ultra-montane valleys referred to above, where a strip

of Carboniferous limestone, running east and west, separates the underlying Old Red Sandstone from the over-lying Coal Measures. In this region will be found some Old Red Sandstone and Coal Measures, but it might appropriately be termed the Limestone region, as this will probably yield the characteristic plants of the area.

To return now to the plant life of the county, the question is often asked—Is Breconshire a good hunting ground for the plant collector? Or, is the county rich in species of plant life? Judging from the variations of altitude, it might be expected to yield a large number and variety of species, but as will be shown below, the number known to occur, up to the present, is only a moderate one.

In estimating the number of species recorded as occurring in a county, it is customary among modern botanists to go back to 1873, when Mr. Hewett Cottrell Watson published his "Topographical Botany of Great Britain." He had made a life study of the distribution of plant species throughout this island, and the results are incorporated in this great work. In order to publish these results conveniently, he divides Great Britain into 18 provinces, 38 sub-provinces, and 112 vice-counties, corresponding for the most part to our modern counties, where they are of moderate size. According to this scheme, Breconshire is vice-county No. 42, in the South-East Sub-Province No. 16, and in the South Wales Province No. 6. In the second edition of this work, published in 1883, the number of species recorded for vice-county No. 42 was only about 180, showing that the county up to that date had either been very inadequately explored, or that no records of such explorations as had been made were accessible to Mr. Watson.

When it is mentioned that the total number of Flowering Plants and Fern-allies known to occur in Great Britain, as recorded in the 7th edition of the London Catalogue of British Plants published in 1877, was 1,665, it will be seen that the number recorded for Brecon was only a little over one-ninth of this total. While, of course, no one county would be likely to yield the whole

number, it might safely be conjectured that no adequately explored county would yield so few as 180. The publication of the *Topographical Botany* immediately stimulated investigation, so that by 1885, when Mr. W. Bowles Barrett wrote in the *Journal of Botany* his "Contribution towards a Flora of Breconshire," the number of plants recorded had greatly increased.

The Rev. Augustin Ley, joint author with the Rev. W. H. Purchas of the *Flora of Herefordshire*, had contributed no fewer than 269, Mrs. and Miss Fryer 27, and Mr. Barrett himself added, as the result of three weeks' stay in the county, as many as 105, bringing up the whole number of records to about 595. Mr. Barrett anticipated that the number might be brought up to about 670, leaving 75 species yet to be discovered. This is, however, in all probability an under-estimate, for in a later "*Flora of Worcestershire*" (Amphlett and Rea), the number of recorded plants in that county is as many as 1,181.

After the date of Mr. Barrett's visit, the Rev. Augustin Ley continued to explore the county in out-of-the-way parts, and added many finds, particularly among the Hawk-weeds; and these were recorded year by year in the Reports of the Botanical Exchange Club. In these are also recorded fresh discoveries by Mr. Charles Bailly, the Rev. W. H. Painter, and the Rev. H. J. Riddellsdell, the author of a "*Flora of Glamorganshire*." The present writer in 1892 added six records and some new localities in "*Notes on the Flora of Breconshire*" in the *Journal of Botany*.

In 1907, Mr. Arthur Bennett published a Supplement to the "*Topographical Botany*" edition 2, as an appendix to the *Journal of Botany* for the year. The number of records for Breconshire is here brought up to 587, which it will be observed is somewhat less than that given by Mr. Barrett in 1885. Mr. Bennett has probably overlooked several records by Mr. Barrett and others.

I have no means of knowing what has been done since 1907 towards a fuller knowledge of the plant life of the county. Many more species have yet to be traced, before the material will be gathered together for a "*Flora of Breconshire*." It is much to be hoped, however, that some competent botanist has such an enterprise in mind. In the meantime even a provisional list of county plants would probably stimulate inquiry. Might I suggest

here the procedure for anyone who desires to take a share in this form of botanical research? From what I have said above, it is clear that access to the "Topographical Botany" and its Supplement is desirable in order to ascertain readily what plants have yet to be looked for. Then assuming that the collector is able to identify a plant by means of a "British Flora," like Hooker's or Bentham's, he should dry and mount a specimen, giving the ascertained name, the date, and locality. If the collector has a doubt about the identity of a plant, a sample might be sent to the Botanical Section of the National Museum, Cathays Park, Cardiff, for identification. Even if a plant is not new to the county, a new locality for a plant inadequately reported upon will be a useful contribution towards the compilation of a "Flora of Breconshire" sometime in the future, which will be worthy to rank among other county Floras.

I have hitherto dealt with the constituents of a Flora only. There is another aspect of the vegetation of any area worthy of study, and that is the study of plant communities. It will be readily recognised that in similar conditions many plants belonging to widely different families will again and again be found to flourish side by side. Arable land, grassland, marshland, moorland, woodland, and mountains all possess their characteristic plant constituents. These are plant communities; and the question naturally arises, what are the characters which enable the members of these communities to occupy the same areas. In this connection many interesting problems will suggest themselves to the observant student of Nature. How far is the plant dependent upon the chemical nature of the soil for existence and propagation? How far are some plants included in a Flora truly native, and to what extent dependent for their continuance upon human agency? What trees formed the primitive woodland of the county? What has been the effect upon mountain vegetation of the continuous grazing of sheep and cattle in the great sheep-walks of the county? What plants are on the verge of extinction, and what plants are gaining ground? These and a multitude of such questions can only find an answer by long and careful observation and record; but their investigation will be a perpetual source of interest to the plant collector who is also a lover of Nature.

Then there remains the study of the Mosses, Lichens, Algae and Fungi of the county. The "Flora of Worcester-shire" by Amphlett and Rea, to which I have already alluded, includes all these groups, and is in this sense a complete Flora. How far the study of these groups is proceeding in Breconshire I am unable to say; but it is obvious that there is room for a great number of investigators, who may make some contribution to a future "Flora of Breconshire." [See Appendix I.]

July, 1920.

REGINALD W. PHILLIPS.

AFFORESTATION.

BY D. STANLEY FRANCIS, D.Fy. (Wales), R.E.A.S.

It is surprising how little is known, save to those interested in forestry, as to the position of the County of Brecknock with regard to this important question. Local landowners, such as Lord Glanusk, Capt. J. D. D. Evans, and Captain H. A. Christy, have all along identified themselves with any movement to foster tree-planting; but, on the whole, there are not many in the county who have taken so active an interest in this most important industry. Before the war the total woodland areas in the whole of Wales, as per the Board of Agriculture returns, amounted to 181,610 acres, representing a percentage of wooded land area of 3.76 per cent. The County of Brecknock, when this return was made, boasted 13,956 acres of woodlands, representing a percentage of 3.68 of the total land area. These figures relate to the standing timber existent at the time the survey was made.

Breconshire is eminently suitable for tree growth. The Old Red Sandstone (Palæozoic) soil of the county is capable of producing the finest timber crops. When the Royal Show was held in Cardiff, in 1919, Captain J. D. D. Evans, of Ffrwdgrech, Brecon, entered a plantation in one of the forestry competitions. This plantation, The Gaer, near Cradoc, consisted of larch, Douglas firs, and a few Thuja Plicata. The judges in the competition

found, upon inspection, that a one year's height growth in the case of the Douglas fir was in some cases 6 feet 7 inches; the average of the whole plantation for this particular species was taken as 6 feet 4 inches! What more need be said as to the suitability of this county for the purpose of forestry? Breconshire would appear to be peculiarly adaptable to the growth of pit-wood, and as most pit-wood is of the conifer or softwood variety, such as the pines, spruces, firs and larches, it is not to be wondered at that most of the plantations in the county consist of pure crops of one or other of these species. The South Wales coal-field is, as it were, at the door of the county, and as the collieries are a ready market for the sale of suitable pit-wood, Breconshire in every way is eminently suitable for the growth and disposal of fast-growing pit-wood. Larch predominates in this part of the country, but recent importations, such as the Japanese larch, Sitka spruce, Douglas fir, and the Thuja (or American red cedar), have given such extraordinarily good results, that these new species bid fair to establish themselves to the partial exclusion of the European larch. Their rotation is quicker, and in other ways the timber compares more than favourably with European larch.

There is another point to be considered in relation to forestry, in so far as concerns this county. Rural depopulation is, unfortunately, on the increase. One has only to compare the last census returns with the previous returns to see how the population of the countryside is being depleted. Numbers of young men—the back-bone of each and every community—now migrate to the industrial areas, and in these days of acute industrial depression, this is a very serious matter. It would be infinitely to the advantage of the State and the general community if a thorough system of re-forestation were undertaken in the county with a view to preventing the exodus of these young men. Forestry would supply one of the most healthy of occupations in timber production, and it would not end there. After all, forestry is a “key” industry upon which a large number of subsidiary industries are dependent, such as turnery, box-making, chair-making, clogging, etc. Again, the by-products of timber, in their variety, are innumerable. Artificial silk, cellulose, paper—even vinegar—to mention just a

few, all come from timber. And why should Breconshire be behind other counties in this respect?

Breconshire is as much a timber-producing county as it is an agricultural and sheep-rearing county, and—forestry pays!

The suggestion that public bodies, such as County Councils, could adopt afforestation schemes for the alleviation of unemployment is certainly sound, for a co-operative body could undertake the work without financial risk under present conditions. In Germany, communal forestry is so well advanced that to-day in Frankfort, the residents pay no rates, as the Opera House, the Guildhall, and other public and municipal buildings have been erected and the services are maintained entirely by the profits of the Frankfort communal forest. Germany employs nearly 3,000,000 persons in connection with its State and communal forests. With the exception of China and Turkey, ours is the only country which has not a definite State or communal policy.

Breconshire has in its Black Mountains and Eppynt highlands large areas capable of producing the finest larch, and some of the best trees have come from the highest altitudes; indeed, the soil of our uplands is more suitable for timber production than even the low-lying areas. A planting scheme at Bwlch-y-waun above Talybont runs through the 1,100-1,200 ft. contours, going up to 1,800 ft. at Tor-y-foel, when the scheme is completed. Previous crops of larch grown there were magnificent, of which the fine, straight trees remaining around Bwlch-y-waun Farm to-day afford clear proof. I say without hesitation that provided there is sufficient depth of soil, our highest altitudes are capable of timber production.

D.S.F.

RAINFALL AT TALGARTH.

Recorded by Mr. Fred Morgan, Senior.

	Rainfall in Inches.				Rain Days.		
	1921	1922	1923		1921	1922	1923
January	2.84	3.60	1.79	...	17	21	13
February	.04	3.39	10.15	...	1	16	24
March	2.54	2.41	1.63	...	16	11	12
April	.81	2.18	1.61	...	6	11	12
May	.69	.52	1.98	...	11	6	14
June	.08	.92	.43	...	2	11	5
July	.91	3.31	2.27	...	7	16	11
August	4.02	2.55	2.23	...	15	15	10
September	.75	2.06	2.64	...	6	12	11
October	1.69	.32	5.24	...	9	2	21
November	1.90	1.20	1.91	...	12	7	14
December	1.72	5.35	1.68	...	16	20	11
Total	17.99	27.81	33.56	...	118	148	158

In 1921 Talgarth was the driest of the 86 Breconshire Stations. A somewhat drier belt extends from Hay through Glasbury and Talgarth to Cathedine.

The establishment of the Mental Hospital and the Sanatorium at Talgarth is evidence of appreciation of the salubrity and fine situation of the locality. While the area to the south of the Black Mountains is found relaxing in the valleys, Talgarth enjoys a bracing climate, and is sheltered from the full force of prevailing winds. Camden says of Breconshire:—"Being thus guarded on the south with high mountains, it is defended from the heat of the sun with cool breezes; which, with an innate wholesomeness of the air, renders the country exceeding temperate. On the east, the mountains of Talgarth and Ewias doe as it were foreseense it."

REBECCA AND BAD ROADS.

The visitor to Talgarth should not fail to read "The Sheep Stealers," by Violet Jacob. It deals with the period of the Rebecca Riots and is the only novel known which has for background the Black Mountain scenery. Although the plot centres near Hay, and Talgarth is hardly mentioned, whilst Abergavenny is frequently named, a resident could identify many of the localities portrayed in the story. The writer is gifted with great descriptive power, and the book has attracted world-wide notice as a work of art. The story brings to mind vividly what Breconshire was like in the old-world days of the Rebecca riots. This movement was not in reality an "insurrection," as the Encyclopaedia Britannica puts it, but a violent protest against the multiplicity of toll-gates. It began in Carmarthenshire in 1843-4. "Parties of five or six hundred men, mostly mounted, armed with pickaxes, sledges, hatchets and guns, used nightly to traverse the counties of Carmarthen, Pembroke, Cardigan, and Brecon, headed by a tall man, dressed in woman's clothes, throwing down the toll gates, and committing other excesses; and so well did the rioters keep counsel, and so secretly did they manage their forays, that despite the exertions of the magistrates, assisted by large bodies of military sent into the districts, no effectual check could be put upon their proceedings for many months." Politicians have not yet fully appreciated the fact that high charges on necessary locomotion, transport or correspondence, are in reality contrary to public interest, as witness carriage licence duties, railway passenger duties, and high charges for parcels and postage. There were tollgates on the turnpike roads at and near Talgarth at Bronllys, Trefecca road, and Grigos (Hay road), but a ticket obtained at one gate cleared certain others named thereon. The turnpike roads can easily be identified from the older roads by their occasional "cuttings" for levelling purposes. The other lanes have a tendency to deepen on account of the softness of the red soil, and to become water courses in wet weather. They afford, however, splendid ground for the botanist and naturalist, and in summer are plentifully decked with flowers. Indeed at Talgarth plants grow well in the rich soil, and there are few places devoid of interest botanically. The Boy Scout move-

ment has done much to popularise the country, and here is a wonder-world of hill and dale and crystal brook awaiting the captive children of the dreary large towns.

What roads were like in the middle ages may be imagined from facts related and Acts passed. One of the first laws on the subject was passed in 1285 directing that all bushes and trees along the roads leading from one market to another should be cut down for 200 feet on either side, to prevent robbers lurking therein. In 1346, the footway at the entrance of Temple Bar was interrupted by thickets and bushes, and in wet weather was almost impassable. The roads farther west were so bad that when the King (Edward III.) went to Parliament faggots were thrown into the ruts in King Street, Westminster, to enable the royal cavalcade to pass along. In Henry VIII.'s time, when roads got too bad, new ones were laid out, as most fields were not then enclosed. "Many of the wayes in the wealds are so depe and noyous by wearying and course of water and other occasions that people cannot have their carriages or passages by horses uppon or by the same but to their great paynes, perill and jeopardie," says an Act of that time. In 1555 an Act says, "highwaies are now both verie noisome and tedious to travell in, and dangerous to all passengers and carriages." In 1690 "the Sussex ways are bad and ruinous beyond imagination," says a barrister on circuit.

Valentine Morris (1739-1786) consulted relative to the roads in Wales before a Parliamentary Commission, said, "Roads! Roads! We have none." "Then how do you travel?" In ditches," he replied.

Arthur Young (1769) on the subject of roads in Wales, says:—"But, my dear sir, what am I to say of the roads in this country! the turnpikes! as they have the assurance to call them, and the hardness to make one pay for. From Chepstow to the halfway house between Newport and Cardiff they continue mere rocky lanes, full of hugeous stones as big as one's horse, and abominable holes." (His word "hugeous" recalls the peculiar Talgarth word "hougy" for huge.) He continues—"At Halfway near Trecastle, in Breconshire, a small obelisk is still to be seen

which was erected to commemorate the turnover and destruction of the mail coach over a steep of 130 feet, the driver and passengers escaping unhurt."

This helps us to understand how difficult travel was even as late as 1769, and how remote Wales was then from London and the continent as a consequence. It is much easier nowadays to travel from Brecon to London than it was then to reach Hereford or Worcester.

In 1847-50 Sir George Cornwall Lewis, M.P. for Hereford, introduced the bill for the abolition of Turnpike Trusts.

T.R.P.

THE OLD TRAMROAD.

The writer remembers well the Old Tramroad from Brecon to Talgarth and onwards toward Hay, when it was at work. A red letter day to some small boys was that when at the Castle Inn Station a tram came in loaded with a cask of sugar or currants for the Bank Shop, then kept by two old ladies who traded under the style of Williams and Nicholas. Tommy Norman, senr., was the carter, and his progress to the shop was watched with interest.

In the "Express" of 26th February, 1914, there appeared some notes by a Talgarthian on this tram line. "It was called the Hay Railway, and was incorporated by an Act of George III., passed in 1811, to construct a railway of this character from the Canal Wharf at Brecon to Parton Cross, Eardisley, Herefordshire. The line was duly constructed in accordance with this Act and an amending Act of 1812. Its length was about 22 miles, and its width was limited to 10 yards, except at the necessary crossings and sidings. The tracks consisted of iron platings of L section, laid upon stone blocks to which they were fastened. The gauge was about 3ft. 6in. Where the tramroad passed through enclosed lands it was fenced off, but where it ran, as it did in certain parts of its length, alongside a public road, it was generally, if not always, open on its highway side. The tramroad was worked for about 50 years, and must have been of considerable service to the

districts through which it passed, in the carriage of lime, coal, timber, slates and other materials of trade. Under an Act of 1860, the tramway became vested in the Hereford, Hay and Brecon Railway Company, which constructed the line from Hereford to Three Cocks Junction, and from 1874, the property of the Midland Railway Company, and is now a portion of the Great Western railway system.

The trams were usually drawn by horses, and the space between the rails was, in some places at least, pitched with stones to form a solid roadway. The trams were small, such as now run in collieries, were made wholly of iron, and provided with fixed brakes and wooden sprags."

Mr. John Lloyd wrote on the subject of this tramroad :— "At that time Mr. Benjamin Outram, the great engineer, brought out a speciality in trams and tramroads and their fixings. Outram wrote a report on trams, etc. . . . The chief traders were the Bridgewaters of Talgarth and Porthamel, and the Quaker family of Trusted, of Hay and Eardisley. The line was of considerable gain to the district in lowering the price of coal and lime. I have invoices and letters showing that the marble mantelpiece at Maesllwch Castle, and much of the finer material used in the interior, were brought from Bristol by the Brecon Canal, and then by the tramroad to Glasbury. It was an alternate day traffic mostly for traders. Trusted's team, say, of trams would leave Eardisley or Hay on the Monday, and return on the Tuesday. The trams going Brecon-wards generally ran light, except at certain seasons, when they brought a good deal of wheat from the Herefordshire district to the Brecon millers, like Webb and Handley, of Velindre, to be ground and sent to the shops on the 'hills' " (colliery towns).

Mr. Lloyd concludes—"I have witnessed the procession of trams along the Llechfaen bank innumerable times from my home at Dinas. The laden trams out from Brecon in the early part of the day seemed to labour heavily up against the long incline to Groesffordd, but in the evening the generally light-laden trams came quickly and merrily down the incline with a sweet humming sound or ring, as if men, horses, and trams were glad to reach their destination and resting place in their Brecon homes."

The nature and extent of the traffic may be gathered from a balance sheet of the Rail Road made by the Canal Company who appeared to have taken over the undertaking, renting it from the Hay Railway Company.

Balance Sheet for half-year ending 29th September, 1839 :

Tonnage and Receipts.

Coal and Coke	...	...	...	...	9270	£300	4	8
Lime and Limestone	...	...	...	...	1124½	11	14	1
Timber	...	...	...	...	169¼	5	13	0
Iron	...	...	...	...	4¾	0	1	7
Stone, Slate and Brick	...	...	...	...	197½	2	6	1
Hay, Straw and Compost	...	...	...	...	12	0	3	0
Goods and other Merchandise	...	...	...	...	15	0	10	0
Tolls	...	...	...	...	...	5	6	1

Tons, 10793 £325 18 6

Rent of Railway Houses, etc., half-year	...	£276	17	9
Half-year's tonnage on Tramroad at Brecon	...	30	3	7

Railroad Payments.

Salaries	...	...	...	...	...	£210	10	0
Repairs of Rail Road	...	...	...	...	...	92	10	0

(The Salaries also include Rail Road management).

At Talgarth the present railway follows more or less closely the old Tramroad route, but the Tramroad Bridge over the Enig near the Castle Hotel shows the deviation there, which explains the strange turns and levels of the road to Bronllys at this point. The tramroad crossed the turnpike roads obliquely at the Castle Hotel, and near the goods yard on the Trefecca road. Some of the old tramroad route has been enclosed by owners of adjoining land, as provided by the Act allowing the present railway.

OLD LOCAL INDUSTRIES.

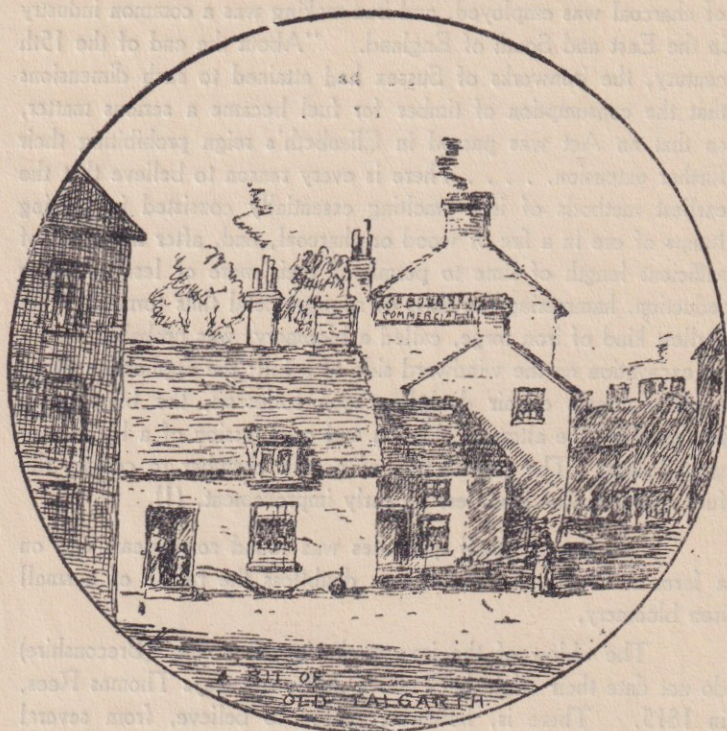
Prior to the use of coal for iron smelting, wood in the form of charcoal was employed, and iron-making was a common industry in the East and South of England. "About the end of the 15th century, the ironworks of Sussex had attained to such dimensions that the consumption of timber for fuel became a serious matter, so that an Act was passed in Elizabeth's reign prohibiting their further extension. . . . There is every reason to believe that the earliest methods of iron smelting essentially consisted in placing lumps of ore in a fire of wood or charcoal, and, after the lapse of sufficient length of time to permit of their more or less complete reduction, hammering the mass of spongy metal thus formed. The earliest kind of iron forge, called a bloomery, was probably simply an excavation on the windward side of a hill; the application of an artificial stream of air doubtless soon followed, the blast being produced by the alternate dilation and compression of a bladder or goats' skins. The construction of a clay chamber to contain the fuel and iron was doubtless an early improvement. (1).

Iron slag in small quantities was found some years ago on a farm at Bronllys, and this was doubtless the refuse of a small iron bloomery.

The oldest of the iron works in this county (Breconshire) do not date their origin back above 200 years, says Thomas Rees, in 1815. There is, however, reason to believe, from several masses of scoria, usually called here "Roman cinders," which are found in various parts of the Hundred of Crickhowell, that some mode of manufacturing iron must have been practised in the district, at a period long anterior to the erection of any furnaces on the modern plan. A farmer found that to quit his daily employment and turn metallurgist was an easy (it must certainly have been the only) mode of procuring the iron he wanted. (18).

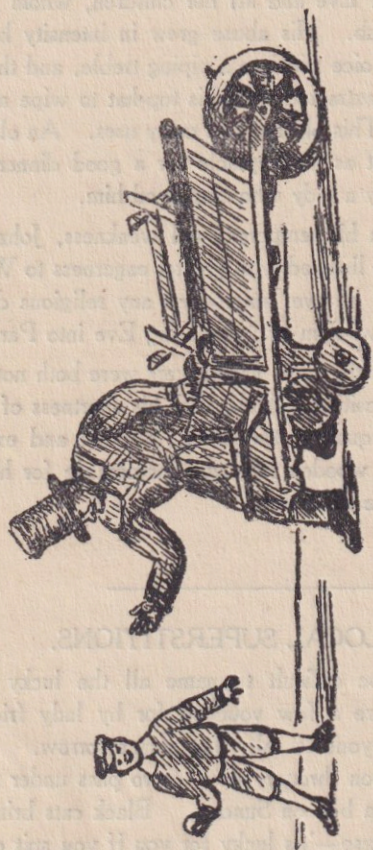
Before the introduction of railways, each village was to a great extent dependent on its own resources. It grew and milled its own wheat, carded, spun and wove its own wool, tanned its own hides, and performed many other services for which it now depends on great industrial centres. It is not so long ago that a farmer

brought the yarn spun by his wife to the village weaver, who dyed it in several simple colours, and wove it by his hand-loom into cloth famous for its wearing quality. The village cooper took a



turn round the farm-houses making milk-pails, casks, "costrels," and even stools, from green wood on the farm. The village tailor also visited the farm-houses to make and mend suits for the household. The basket-maker performed wonders of his art from hazel wands, dexterously split and smoothed; but strange to say he never used osiers. Indeed, there is reason to doubt whether the osiers suitable for baskets were grown anywhere in the locality, though willows of many varieties abound. Talgarth had its own saddlers, nail-makers, tanners, maltsters, etc., up to the middle of the last century, but the use of machinery in manufacture and of railways for transport has altered all that.

In this period of isolation, the community lived a life of closer contact than at present; and every one being known to every one else, a greater familiarity was indulged in. Local wits outdid each other in the bestowal of nicknames, and in the end some folks were better known by their nickname than by their patronymic. Some of the nicknamed were local characters of unique personality.



The Hater of Woman.

Such a one was "Jack the Loft," a hardworking and independent itinerant wood-chopper. He worked at his wood-splitting and chopping with groans and gusts of breath accompanying each whacking blow, for he was a hale and hearty old man. He wore, in accordance with the fashion of a former day, top-hat, smock-

frock and breeches. Thus attired, and pushing a three-wheeled barrow, conveying his wood-cutting implements, John was certain to receive the attention of the idler on mischief bent. The legend on which his tormentors relied was an ancient rumour of youthful gallantry on John's part, of which he was probably quite innocent. A sly reference to this episode was sufficient to rouse John to vehement abuse of Eve and all her children, whom he called the brood of Beelzebub. His abuse grew in intensity but diminished in effect until his voice slid into a piping treble, and then an old red handkerchief was extracted from his top-hat to wipe away his tears of mortification. This old hat had many uses. An old Talgarthian saw John proffer it as a receptacle for a good dinner of beef and vegetables given by a lady who employed him.

Apart from his temperamental weakness, John was a good citizen, and no one listened with greater eagerness to Welsh sermons and hymns; and if he ever entertained any religious doubt, it must have been on the wisdom of introducing Eve into Paradise.

The last of the local nail-makers were both noteworthy, one for his happy disposition, which, with his shortness of stature, gave him a gnome-like quality; the other, irascible and excitable, with the handicap of a wooden leg, was memorable for his earnestness when his bees were swarming.

T.R.P.

LOCAL SUPERSTITIONS.

It would be difficult to name all the lucky and unlucky things, but here are a few vouched for by lady friends. It is unlucky to help anyone to salt; that means sorrow. It is unlucky to see the new moon through glass, or to pass under a ladder; but worse still to turn a bed on Sunday. Black cats bring good luck, so does a white horse—'tis lucky for you if you spit on your shoe. House-flies in quantity once had a reputation for bearing good luck, but lost long since. The calamities attendant on dropping your umbrella or walking stick when leaving the house may be averted by someone else picking them up for you; so the quarrel which must follow a chance meeting on the stairs may be averted by promptly

speaking at the time. If you slip whilst going upstairs, that foretells a wedding for someone behind you; while a cinder shot out by the fire is a coffin, and a picture falling means death in the family. Soot hanging on the grate bar is a danger to come, and



Jack "She Dinas."

JOHN OF THE DINAS was a local celebrity, sometimes called the Lord of the Manor or Mayor of the Ancient Borough. Seated in a Sedan chair he distributed coppers on the occasion of the wedding of King Edward VII., 10th March, 1863.

a speck in the candle flame is a letter, while a lump therein means a shroud. See a pin, and let it "lay," bad luck you'll have through the day. See a pin and pick it up, all the day you'll have good luck. Some precisians assert that only pins pointing to you need be picked up. To drop a knife, fork or spoon means a visitor, man, woman, or child respectively. Clothes put on wrong side out mean a present. A diamond-shaped fold in a table cloth

foretells a wedding. Hairpins falling, lovers calling; a smack in the face is very provoking. The rhyme is not perfect. Good wives still mark the dough with a cross, and deem it very unlucky to start a hen sitting on a Friday, or to kill a spider. A spider on your dress foretells new clothes. When your ears burn, some one speaks ill of you. Apron on, shoelace undone, someone is thinking of you. Everyone knows how seven years' bad luck follows on breaking a mirror. When you shudder someone is walking over your grave.

Some of the old sayings are interesting. Talk is cheap; but money will buy land. Quick at meals, quick at work. More haste, less speed. Thick as thieves. A tortoise-shell tomcat is seldom seen, but there was one once at Capel-y-ffin. What do they do with the old moons? They are sent over to Capel-y-ffin to chop up into stars. Temptation is not sin; you can't help the crows flying over your field, but you can stop them settling there. Three hornets can kill a horse; so can one dragon-fly, which is called the horse-stinger. A valuable thing is worth a Jew's eye. A pet child is the apple of one's eye; the wind shall not blow over it. Healthy as a trout; thin as a herring; thin as a ladder. Fat as a wnt (mole). Venomous as an ascal (newt). White as the wall; black as ink. Spiteful as a toad. Cross as a wasp. Poor as a church mouse. Lazy as old Lawrence's dog that used to lean against the wall to bark. Dull as a bittle. Pert as you please. Wet as a drowned rat. A gift was irrevocable if the youthful parties hooked their little fingers together, and said "Knick knack, never do the bargain back." The asseveration, "Ping me pang me, cut my throat and hang me," sounds strangely on the lips of tiny children. Give a thing and take a thing is the Devil's plaything. Kissing goes by favour. You may take the horse to water, but you can't make him drink. Children were fond of repeating an old rhyme containing the words, "The hen has lost her shoe." The shoe was a clout on her foot affixed to prevent the scratching up of the garden, and was often seen by the present writer. Her do scat well, was high praise of a widow providing for her children.

Of the weather it was said, "It is all right so long as there

is blue enough in the sky to make a pair of breeches." Sky red, Jenny's dead; fine day to-morrow.

A rainbow in the morning is the shepherd's warning; a rainbow at night is the shepherd's delight. Of a miser it is said, "He would not give you bite nor sup; not the black of his nail."

The practice formerly when a new boy appeared at school, and was asked for his name, was for him to reply, more or less pertly, "What is my name? Elecampane; ask me again, I'll tell you the same." The great plant with its yellow flowers was not known at Talgarth, though its name was so pat on children's tongues. Tutsan, which grows wild at Talgarth, used to have its sweet-scented leaves pressed in books, and was thus often found in Bibles.

When the chapel at Brechfa was being repaired some years ago, several horses' skulls were found in the ceiling. The writer saw them in the graveyard to which they had been removed. It has been said that the idea was that such bones helped the preacher's voice to carry; but the superstition probably goes back to the practice of foundation sacrifices supposed to give stability to a structure. A London church, in Regent Street, or near it, used to have a row of ornaments along the front at a great height bearing the skulls of oxen; and horses' skulls are still occasionally found when repairing Churches.

It used to be unlucky to do a number of things, but very unlucky to transplant a parsley root; and worse still to see an untimely blossom on a fruit tree. It meant the loss of a near friend. Parsley, like myrtle, was a funereal plant with the Romans. One can understand why it was unlucky to place boots, an umbrella or a bellows on the table; and crossed knives recalled the crossed swords denoting a battle. To upset salt was unlucky, possibly because salt has so long been associated with hospitality. Servitors always sat at table below the salt, which became a dividing line. The ill-luck of upset salt could readily be set right by throwing a pinch over the left shoulder. In the picture of *The Last Supper*, by Da Vinci, who died in 1519, it will be noted that Judas, clutching the purse and rising, has upset the salt. So old is the story.

Quite apart from the intellect, there seems to be in the Keltic soul a strong feeling of awe for omens and a dislike of things ominous.

It is not so long ago since most people believed in ghosts, corpse's candles, and phantom funerals; and one reads of headless wanderers, hell-hounds and the Queen of Terrors (Gwrach y Rhabin). But the being that was the terror of little children of Talgarth, even in 1860, was the famous Buggy-bo. He was a fearsome monster, who prowled round and carried away "wicked" children. Great care was thus necessary for most of us at night, and even in the day-time in dark woods; and one well remembers one or two uncanny spots, called boggart's holes in the North country, such as stagnant pools and shaded hollows, where the monster could reasonably be expected to have his abode. There was one such place just below the Castle, where the Llynfi had deserted a corner of his bed near the footpath. This was a place for holding one's breath, and making a dash for light and safety. Of course, this was our old friend Puck, he of the Midsummer Night's Dream, "that perfect rose amongst all the flowers of fancy," who as Puca haunts many a lake in Ireland still. The Rev. Richard Gardner found him in Lithuanian lingo as Boga, a sort of Old Scratch, whilst he has given to our language the words bogey, bug-bear, bug, and boggle, and he survives in America as the bogie man. All these words we got from the Welsh bwg, and the Irish puca, an elf or hobgoblin. His place was taken in France for some time by Marlborough, who as Malbrook was useful to nurses; just as Bonaparte was a bogey in this country. But Boney had become a real terror to others beside children. There are those now alive, says Isaac Taylor, who can remember looking out the last thing at night towards the beacon hill to know if the dreaded landing of Bonaparte had taken place.

T.R.P.

PERSONAL NAMES.

Considering the mixture of races in Britain, beginning with Iberian, Goidel, Brython, and Belgae; the Roman invasion with its legions containing Spaniards, Galicians, Moors, as well as Romans; the Saxon invasion with its Saxons, Angles, Jutes and Frisians; the Northmen's invasions with its Danes and Norwegians; and, finally, the Norman invasion with its Normans, Frenchmen, and Bretons; it requires some courage to claim purity of descent from Norman or Briton. We smile at the story of the negro in the Great War, who spoke of his party as "We Anglo-Saxons." Neither language nor locality can be relied on to prove race. The Welshman's pedigree was often the subject of mirth for those ignorant of the fact that a knowledge of his pedigree for several generations was necessary to sustain his claim for inclusion in his clan; and that to be outside his clan was to be an outlaw, liable to starvation or slavery.

Freeman says that, just at the time of the Conquest, the Normans were beginning to adopt scriptural and saintly names, which were all but unknown in England. (1). This fashion the Normans brought with them, and Saxons and Welsh took up the practice. In Wales the pedigree system acted so that these Christian names became fixed later as surnames. It is strange, however, that the surnames in Wales are so often in the English form.

Christian Name.	Welsh Surnames.	English Surnames.
Harry,	ap Harry, Parry,	Harris, Harrison.
David,	ap Dafydd	Davies, Davison.
Roger,	ap Roger, Prodder,	Rogers, Rogerson.
Evan,	ap Evan, Bevan,	Evans, Evanson.
John,	ap John,	Jones, Johnson.

Prior to the Registration Act of 1837, the Church kept the only records of Births, Deaths and Marriages, and some liberty of choice of surname appeared to exist. Some of the surnames of the county have continued from British times, such as Vaughan (Vehan and Vychan), Morgan, Rhys, and Gwyn; and others, such

as Turberville, Devereux, Baskerville, Gunter, Havard, Gwillim, Perrott, and Aubrey have continued since Norman days. Games is derived from Sir David Llewelyn, nicknamed Gam, from a cast in his eye, as Glyndwr's verse reminds us. Gam was the hero of Agincourt, and the prototype of Shakespeare's Fluellen. Family surnames are said to have been first used about 1050.

PLAGUES, FIRES AND FLOODS.

In 547 A.D. the terrible "Yellow Death" broke out, a plague beginning with jaundice and ending in putrid fever. It raged till 550, and committed frightful devastation in Britain and in Ireland. It was preceded by the appearance of a watery pillar reaching from the clouds that trailed over the land, accompanied by pestilential smells. People sickened and died, and to such an extent that the country was almost deprived of inhabitants. Many people from Wales fled to Brittany, amongst them S. Teilo and S. Cadoc. (24).

It has been suggested that the name Nant-yr-arian (Silverbrook or Money-brook) arose through the plague-stricken purchasers of food having to place their money in the brook to avoid infection passing to the sellers. A brook in Llandefalle parish bears this name.

In 1347 the Black Plague ceased at Hereford, an event recorded by the erection of the Whitecross Memorial.

In 1691 Builth was almost destroyed by fire.

In 1735 a great flood in the Wye swept away the former Whitney Church. In 1795 a more serious flood carried away the bridges at Glasbury, Hay and Whitney. It was due to a sudden thaw releasing ice which choked the arches. In Letton Church, the height of this flood is marked on the internal arch of the tower. Letton is very fertile and lies low, and its floods have led to a local pleasantry. It is said that if anyone asks a Lettonian in summer where he lives, the proud answer is, "At Letton; where d'you think?" But in winter the reply may be, "At Letton; God help

us !” In 1852 or 1854 the Usk was flooded to a height of 15-18 feet above the normal, and the height reached there is marked in Ship Street, Brecon.

On the 17th July, 1880, Talgarth was visited by a great thunderstorm, when one life was lost and much property destroyed by the sudden unusual flooding of the Enig, due to a very heavy local rainfall on the Black Mountains, popularly called a “cloud-burst.” The same flood probably accounts for the exceptionally rapid rise in the Wye, which took farmers by surprise and gave them much work to secure their stock. In some cases the farmers had to climb trees or high hedges for safety.

THE RED BOOK OF TALGARTH

is one of the manuscripts in the Moses Williams Collection presented to the National Library of Wales by Sir John Williams, Bart., G.C.V.O. The manuscript was written *circa* 1400 and is in the same hand as large portions of the Red Book of Hergest now preserved in the Bodleian Library. It contains a few poems by Dafydd ap Gwilym, is in excellent condition, and a fine example of calligraphy. It was given to Moses Williams by John Powell of Talgarth in 1719. John Powell may have been the minister of the church at Tredustan. He was ordained in 1708, and remained pastor until his death in 1728. (This information was kindly furnished by Mr. Ballinger, National Library, Aberystwyth.)

T.R.P.

The Middle Ages have left a considerable legacy of Welsh literature,—The Red Book of Hergest, the Black Book of Carmarthen, the White Book of Rhydderch, and well worthy to rank with these is Y Llyfr Goch o Dalgarth (the Red Book of Talgarth). This MS., which is apparently in the same hand as large portions of the Red Book of Hergest, was written some time about 1400. It belongs to the Llanstephan collection of Welsh manuscripts, and exhibits perhaps the finest example of calligraphy in the collection. The MS.—a miscellany of religious stories in circulation during the Middle Ages—is still in excellent condition and perfectly legible.

Someone, most probably John Powell, of Talgarth, into whose hands the MS. had fallen, has written short comments on the margins, and on folio 155 there is a rough sketch of the palm of a hand. On page 5 occurs the signature of John Powell, and on folio 1 the entry "Liber Moses Williams ex dono J. Powell de Talgarth, 1719."

An interesting letter addressed to the Rev. Mr. Moses Williams at Defynog, in Breconshire, and written by John Powell on 19th September, 1719, is bound at the end of the manuscript. It reads:—I should, I confess ere this at least make a verbal acknowledgment of ye noble present you were pleased to send me. . . . I hereby quit claim in ye first place to ye old parchment MSS. I lent you; tis for you and yours. . . . Having heard your design to abide in Breconshire the winter . . . this begs a line from you to know where and when you'll be at leasure yt I may have an hour's converse with you; and I'll bring wt me MSS. of Antiquity I had since I saw you and give you ye (at) ye meeting. If I shall meet you at Brecon let me know when and at wh house."

Moses Williams, to whom John Powell gave the MS. of the Red-Book of Talgarth in 1719, was a well-known authority on the Welsh language and antiquities. When at Oxford he came under the influence of Edward Lloyd, keeper of the Ashmolean Museum, and was for a short time his assistant. It is, therefore, not surprising to find that Moses Williams soon set about collecting and studying the contents of Welsh MSS. In 1716 he became the Vicar of Defynog. In 1724 he exchanged Defynog for the rectorship of Chilton Trinity and the vicarship of Saint Mary's in Bridgewater, where he died in 1742.

After his death his wife sold his MSS., including the Red Book of Talgarth, to William Jones, F.R.S., the friend and tutor of the astronomer George Parker, the second Earl of Macclesfield.

On his death in 1749 Jones' fine library of mathematical works, as well as his MSS. in the Welsh language, passed to the Earl; and the Red Book of Talgarth remained sheltered for the following 150 years in the library of the Parkers at Shirburn Castle. Through the efforts of Sir John Williams the Welsh section was

removed in 1899, and it was eventually transferred to the National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth. It is there that the Red Book of Talgarth now rests.

IFOR B. POWELL.

JOHN PENRY OR AP HENRY.

John Penry was born in 1559 at Cefn Brith, Llangammarch. He was brought up as a Roman Catholic, but at Cambridge he adopted Puritan doctrines. Deeply impressed with the need of reform within the Church itself and the spiritual destitution of his native country, Penry devoted his life to the publication of papers and addresses on this subject.

His repeated protestations to the Queen and Parliament and his probable connivance in the publication of Martin Mar-Prelate Tracts led to his arrest in 1593. Efforts were made to find some pretext for a capital charge. Failing this, a charge of sedition was based on a rough draft of a petition to the Queen found among his papers. The Court decided that this petition, though it had neither been presented nor published, came within the terms of an Act—intended to apply to treasonable propaganda carried on by Roman Seminary Priests—which made all writings hostile to the Queen's Government or policy a capital felony. Penry was in consequence found guilty and was executed on 29th May, 1593, at St. Thomas-a-Watering, Surrey.

As a publicist he devoted his life to his native country, but the tradition of his preaching tours in Wales is but slenderly supported by facts; they could only have been made during a few months of 1586 or the autumn of 1587.

IFOR B. POWELL.

"SILURIST."

Henry Vaughan (1621-1693), called the Silurist, poet and mystic, was born into an ancient Welsh family, settled at Scethrog, in the parish of Llansantffraed, in 1621. From 1632 to 1638 he and his twin brother Thomas were privately educated by the rector of Llangattock, and afterwards proceeded to Jesus College, Oxford.

Henry Vaughan became a physician, practised in Brecon, and then settled down at Scethrog for the remainder of his life. As a poet Vaughan comes latest in the so-called "metaphysical" school of the 17th century. He is the most remote of the disciples of Donne, and follows him mainly as he saw him reflected in George Herbert. He analyses his experiences, amatory and sacred, with excessive ingenuity, striking out, every now and then, through his extreme intensity of feeling and his close, though limited, observations of Nature, lines and phrases of marvellous felicity. He is of imagination all compact, and he is happiest when he abandons himself most completely to his vision. His verse is apt to seem clabbed and untunable in comparison with that of Crashaw, and even of Herbert at his best. "The Retreat," with its Wordsworthian intimations, "The World," mainly because of the magnificence of its opening lines, and "Beyond the Veil," are by far the most popular of Vaughan's poems and represent him at his best. His passion for the Usk, and his desire to immortalise that pastoral river, are pathetically prominent in his writings. His metrical ear was not fine, and he affected, almost more than Herbert himself, tortured and tuneless forms of self-invented stanzas. (1). His grave in Llansantffraed churchyard is perhaps oftener sought by American tourists than by his own countrymen. Dr. John Brown, who has been called the Scottish Elia, defining poetry as "an expression of the beautiful in words," is said to have recognised the very essence of poetry in Vaughan.

HOWEL HARRIES.

In the Church at Talgarth the following inscription may be read :—

"Near the altar lie the remains of Howel Harris, Esquire, born at Trevecka, January 23rd, 1713/14, O.S. Here where his body lies he was convinced of sin, had his pardon sealed, and felt the power of Christ's precious Blood at the Holy Communion. Having tasted grace, he resolved to declare to others what God had done for his soul. He was the first itinerant preacher of Redemption in this period of revival in England and Wales. He preached the Gospel for the space of thirty-nine years, until he was taken to his final rest. He received all who sought salvation in his house. Thence sprung up the family at Trevecka, to whom he faithfully ministered unto his end as an individual servant of God and faithful member of the Church of England. His end was more blessed than his beginning. Looking to Jesus crucified, he rejoiced to the last that death had lost its sting. He fell asleep in Jesus at Trevecka, July 21st, 1773, and now rests blessedly from his labours. . . ."

This notable inscription records the life of a remarkable man in language such as he and his friends were accustomed to use. The impression that his life made upon his friends may be gathered from the statement of Lady Huntingdon that not fewer than twenty thousand people were assembled at his funeral. "We had three stages erected and nine sermons addressed to the vast multitudes, hundreds of whom were dissolved in tears. Fifteen clergy were present, six of whom blew the gospel trumpet with great power and freedom." Allowing for exaggeration in the estimate of the number of persons present, the population of the county at that time being about 20,000 to 25,000, there can be no doubt that the occasion was a memorable one, and that his friends mourned for him with a sense of personal loss.

Howel Harris came of an artisan family which, as was not unusual in that day, possessed a little land. He is believed to have been born in a cottage which stood on the site of the building now known as "The College" at Trefecca. He was the youngest of

three brothers, Joseph, Thomas and Howel; and there was a sister named Anne. The family could not have been, by any means, in affluent circumstances, for the two elder brothers became artisans, and Howel earned his own living at first as a schoolmaster. The brothers were all remarkable, each in his own vocation. Joseph was apprenticed to a blacksmith at Llangorse, became a scientist, and made a voyage to Jamaica. He wrote some books on scientific subjects, was appointed to a post in the Royal Mint, London, and died as an official resident in the Tower of London, in 1764. He was twelve years older than Howel, and took a great interest in Howel's education. He often wrote to his parents urging them to give him a superior education, and not to be discouraged even when their finances were at a low ebb. The second brother, Thomas, was apprenticed to a tailor, his uncle, Solomon Price, at Llangorse. He made a fortune in London as a military tailor, and purchased an estate at Trefecca and Tregunter. He became High Sheriff of Breconshire in 1768, and died in 1782. There is a memorial tablet to both these brothers in Talgarth Church.

The effect of Joseph's counsel is known from the fact that Howel spent three years at Llwynllwyd Academy, near Glasbury, and there laid the foundation of a fairly good education. Joseph's wish was that Howel should acquire sufficient Greek and Latin to enable him to take a University course at Oxford, and later to keep a school with a view to obtaining recommendation to the Bishop for ordination. Whilst Howel was at Llwynllwyd, in 1731, his father died, and Howel was obliged to leave the Academy to earn his own living and support his mother. He became a schoolmaster at Llangorse, staying there two years, and then took charge of a school at Llangasty. There he remained two years also, lodging at Trebinshwn, a mansion of the parish, where his host was Mr. Lewis Jones, a cousin to Thomas Jones, of Tredustan, whose daughter became the wife of Howel's brother, Joseph. He was now twenty-one, and had apparently taken little interest in religious matters. Between Easter and Whitsuntide of 1735 the crisis of his life came. He had been advised by the Rev. Pryce Davies, Vicar of Talgarth, to prepare for the Easter Communion. The Vicar said to his parishioners: "If you are not fit to come to Communion, you are not fit to pray, you are not fit to live, nor to die." This moved

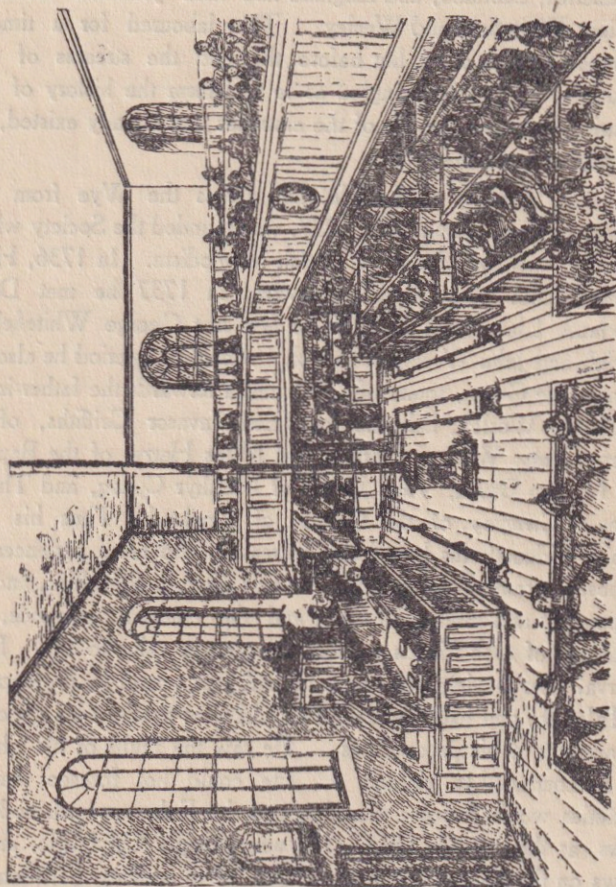
Howel Harris profoundly; he began to question himself, and to feel very unhappy. His Latin Diaries show what his Slough of Despond was like. He accuses himself, just as Bunyan did, of heinous offences, and with probably no more serious grounds than Bunyan had. He read religious books which he found at Trebinshwn, made good resolutions, and at the Whitsuntide Communion in Talgarth Church experienced conversion—25th May, 1735. He says: "I now began to be more happy, and could not help telling people in going home from Church that Whitsunday that I knew that my sins were forgiven me; though I had never heard anyone profess that assurance before, or say that it could be obtained, but I was so deeply convinced that nothing could shake my confidence." This confidence stamps the religious Reformer, and explains in some measure the life he was destined to lead. He had no doubts about his conversion, and never swerved from the path in which he believed his duty led him.

He entered at St. Mary Hall, Oxford, in November, 1735, but stayed there only a few days. His awakened soul, in its new enthusiasm, revolted at what appeared to him the ungodliness of Oxford. He forsook the pursuit of the classics for the saving of souls, feeling an increasing desire to consecrate his life to that service. He went back to his school, teaching by day and preaching at night. He applied to the Bishop of St. David's for ordination, but was refused. Various reasons have been offered for the refusal, such as his youth, and his neglect to graduate; but, probably, the real reason was that his revival meetings had aroused prejudice. He failed to secure a school at Talgarth and in Hampshire when his position at Llangasty was threatened. Gradually his work extended from home and neighbours to neighbouring farms, then to villages and towns, widening to adjoining counties, and extending at the last to the whole of Wales and to many places in England. In Radnorshire he met his future wife, a daughter of his host, John Williams, Esquire, of Skreen, who had invited Harris to his house. She became a convert and proved a fitting helpmate. In his early days as a preacher near home, he used to accompany John Games, the Clerk and Precentor of Talgarth Church, to Games's music-teaching meetings round the district, using the meeting as a basis for his exhortations. He aroused enmity by his preaching, and in his

journeys underwent much persecution and suffering at the hands of the hooligans of that period. His companion, Seward, died as the result of a stone thrown at him when at Hay; and on one occasion he and his companion, Cennick, had a trying experience. They were preaching in the streets in Swindon, in 1741, when a mob gathered to maltreat them. Some persons held a gun close to the faces of the preachers, and discharged it so that the skin was blackened by the powder; then they threw clouds of road-dust at the preachers, and finally drenched them with dirty water from a ditch pumped by an old fire-engine for a full hour. Whilst Harris was being drenched, Cennick preached, and vice versa, until the mob's energy expired. A reference to the blood of Christ led to the preachers being drenched with blood at the suggestion of the mob leader, Mr. Godhard. When the preachers returned to Wiltshire a little later, they received a kindly welcome; and popular opinion doubtless attributed the serious accidents which befel some members of the brutal mob to due retribution for their wickedness. His journeys to England extended to London *via* Bristol, and during his military service he stayed at Yarmouth, Bideford, Barnstaple, Torrington and Plymouth. He also visited Yorkshire, intending to proceed to Scotland, but was called south to Lady Huntingdon's place.

In a brief sketch of his career such as this, it is impossible to do more than point out the salient facts; but as ample Diaries and manuscripts of the reformer are in existence, there is reason to hope that an adequate Life will be written of this distinguished layman who "could not help" preaching, yet succeeded in retaining, under much discouragement, a strong hold on his membership of the Church of England. When he was threatened with a charge of breach of the Conventicle Act, his effective reply was that he was a Conformist. His attachment to the mother Church was no doubt due to his firm faith in the virtue of her sacraments, which his own experience supported. Yet he found it necessary, without leaving the Church, to organise his converts. He, therefore, founded the "Society," the local unit of the church within the church, a body of persons who knew that they were saved, and met together for mutual encouragement by relating their religious experiences. This is of the essence of Methodism, as it appears to the outsider. The Societies began to agitate for severance from the Church, but Harris would

not listen to this. His advice was to remain in the Church until they were turned out. Whitefield took the same view; and objected to their taking any other name than Christians. The Society had a

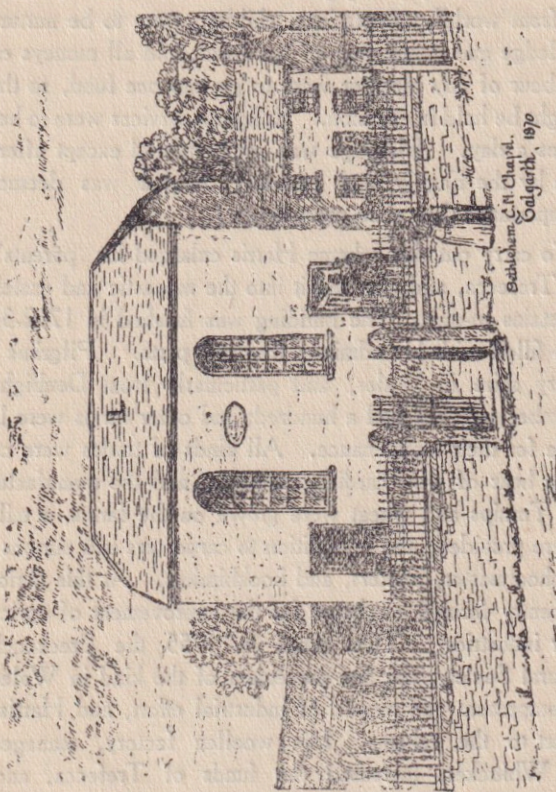


definite organisation even in these strange circumstances. Persons were appointed to receive all collections, to keep account of them, and to bring the accounts to the "Monthly Association." Others were to look after the sick and poor, to visit and speak to those who did not attend any place of worship; and to keep an eye on absentees and see that they did not backslide.

The Methodist Revival, as the Evangelical Movement of the 18th Century is called, was not confined wholly to Wales. As Wales had her reformers like Howel Harris and Daniel Rowland, so America, Scotland, and England had their Jonathan Edwards, Erskine, Whitefield and Wesley. They laboured for a time in ignorance of each other, but before the end the streams of their enthusiasm had so commingled as to transform the history of their countries, to renew the life of the churches that already existed, and to create new denominations.

At Wernos, in Llandefalle, across the Wye from The Skreen, Erwood, about May, 1737, was founded the Society which, probably, was the Mother of Welsh Methodism. In 1736, Harris visited Griffith Jones of Llanddowror; in 1737 he met Daniel Rowland, Llangetho; in 1739 he first met George Whitefield at Cardiff, and John Wesley in Bristol. About this period he also met Marmaduke Gwyn, squire of Garth and afterwards the father-in-law of Charles Wesley; Edmond Jones and Vavasor Griffiths, of the Independents; William Herbert and Miles Harry, of the Baptists; and Madam Bevan, Vicar Lewis of Merthyr Cynog, and Thomas Jones of Cwmyoy, of the Church of England. Thus his sympathies widened, his knowledge increased, and his experiences and purposes became more varied. He was often in difficulties, and was despondent and jubilant in turns; and the counsel, guidance, and protection of such friends were of the greatest value to him. In the interval after leaving Llangasty, he had kept school in Trefecca and in Talgarth, and had then found his old vicar amongst his opponents on account of his proceedings. He saw the faults of his Church, yet he continued to defend it. He could not foresee that the Societies would become churches and the Exhorters ordained ministers, as they did in 1811. He was strongly Calvinistic, and his views on theological points sometimes led to coolness between himself and his friends. Thus Rowland and he drifted apart. He wore himself out with his work, sometimes riding long distances day after day, and preaching at midnight to avoid persecution. He was committed to Monmouth Assizes for preaching in the open air; but the charge was quashed and he was not required to appear. The Riot Act was read more than once at his meetings; and scorn and contempt were heaped upon him as he was driven from place to

place. Pistols were discharged; drums were beaten, and carrion and other offensive matter were thrown at him. For us to-day remains the boon of greater liberty in thought and speech which was thus won by men of his character—earnest, determined and persistent souls.

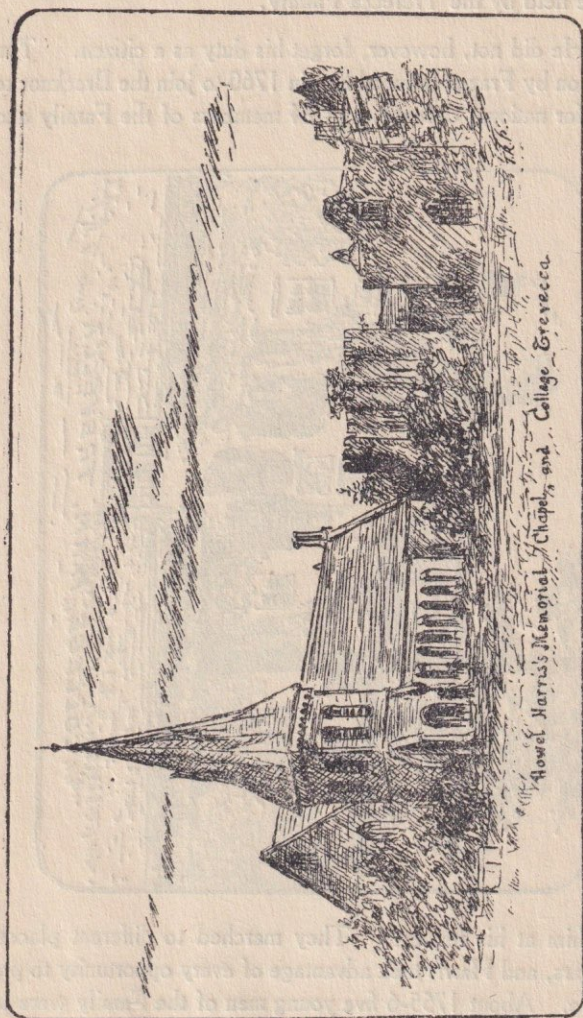


Harris had collected money for Whitefield's Home for Orphans in Georgia in 1748, and had heard of Professor Frank's Communal Institution at Halle, Germany, as early as 1736, and may have seen the Moravian Brethren's Religious House at Fulneck in Yorkshire. Some, or all of these, may have moved Harris to provide a similar home in Trefecca. He gradually evolved the idea of an Industrial and Religious Home or Family at Trefecca. His

disputes with Rowland had divided the new converts, and Rowland's followers increased while his own dwindled away, until in 1751, he had practically retired from his itinerant mission. This gave him the opportunity to develop the idea of the Family; and he was doubtless indebted to Madam Griffith for financial help in carrying the idea into effect. In this Family young girls and widows were to be safeguarded from worldly temptations, children were to be nurtured in the knowledge and admonition of the Lord; and all moneys earned by the labour of any member were to go into one fund, so that all things might be held in common. Religious services were to be held three times a day. Marriage was not permitted except after consideration by the Family, and personal religion was deemed of greater importance than mere prosperity.

To carry out this scheme Harris enlarged his parents' old house at Trefecca, and changed it into the monastic and castellated form it retains to-day. The building was finished in 1752-3, and was soon filled with his admirers from all parts. Pilgrims came from every shire in Wales, and particularly from Denbighshire. Their number soon reached a hundred; and other farms were leased to provide for their maintenance. All kinds of trades were carried on, as we hear of wool-carding, spinning, and the manufacture of flannel. Turnips and wheat were grown on the farms, a mill and miller were provided; and in addition to carpenters and masons there were a schoolmaster, printers, and bookbinders. At this period the country gentry formed a scheme for the improvement of agriculture and other industries. Thus arose in 1755 the Brecknockshire Agricultural Society, the first movement of the kind in Wales, for the encouragement and reward of industrial effort, and Harris gave his support to the scheme. His woollen factory, managed by Richard Whittaker, increased the funds of Trefecca, and the printing press of the Family published as many as 110 books between 1766 and 1805, amongst them being the little *Bible of John Canne*, the *Hymns of Williams*, *Pantycelyn*, and many sermons, elegies and translations. This industrial and religious community had a very successful career during Howel Harris's life-time; but its existence was less fortunate during the days of his successor, Evan Moses; and long before 1842, when Trefecca was transferred to the Methodists for the purposes of a College for their preachers in South Wales,

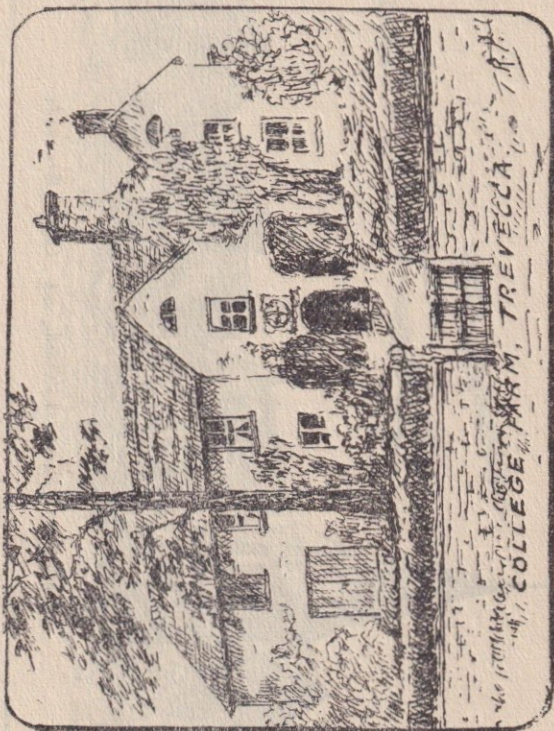
not more than five of the old Family remained. William James, the last of Howel Harris's people, was buried in 1847.



The Family is associated particularly with two places, namely, Trefecca, which is the same site as the present College, and Trefecca-fawr. The names of the older farms occupied are not

given in the biographies; but the "*Brecon and Radnor Express*" in 1913 contained a note stating that Penyworlodd and farms adjoining were held by the Trefecca Family.

He did not, however, forget his duty as a citizen. Threats of invasion by France induced him in 1760 to join the Brecknockshire Militia for national defence, and 24 members of the Family accom-



panied him at his request. They marched to different places for three years, and Harris took advantage of every opportunity to preach as before. About 1755-6 five young men of the Family were taken by Harris to enlist for service, and one fought under Wolfe at Quebec (1759). Four of them gave their lives abroad, and the fifth, Hugh Davies, returned only after several years to Trefecca. Some think he was actuated by antipathy to Roman Catholicism in his

soldiering, and it is possible that there was some truth in the suggestion, but the diaries should clear up the matter.

The expulsion of Methodist students from Oxford Colleges which took place about 1768, as one of the phases of the persecution of Nonconformity, induced Selina, Countess of Huntingdon, to establish a college for such students at her own expense. At Harris's suggestion, the College was located at a farm-house, now known as College Farm, Trefecca, the house being converted by his workmen into a building suitable for the purpose. There he often preached to the students. The Countess instituted an annual preaching festival on her birthday in August, which she and her family attended. On such occasions, John Wesley, Toplady, Whitefield, Fletcher, Benson, Daniel Rowland, Peter Williams, Williams of Pantycelyn, and David Jones of Llangan, met and preached there; nor was Howel Harris absent, a proof that the Reformers were reconciled to him. The College was maintained by the Countess until her death in 1791. It was afterwards removed to Cheshunt, and later to Cambridge.

Harris's health had been failing for ten years before his death. He fell ill in 1772, and after months of suffering died in July, 1773.

The particulars of this account have been gleaned from Poole's *History of Brecknockshire*; *Howel Harris*, by Rev. M. H. Jones, B.A.; *Howell Harris*, by Rev. John Davies, of Pandy; and from notes provided by Mr. E. E. Morgan.

Dr. Rigg, writing on Methodism in the *Encyclopedia Britannica*, says:—"Howell Harris, a gentleman of some position born at Trevecca, in the parish of Talgarth, county of Brecon, is the most prominent name connected with early Welsh Methodism. His first strong religious convictions and impulses date from 1735. He was sent to Oxford in the autumn of that year to "cure him of his fanaticism," but remained only one term. On his return to Wales he began to exhort and preach in private houses and in such buildings as he could obtain the use of, being then and throughout his life, a simple layman. Of learning or theology he had but little; but he was an extemporary preacher of prodigious vehemence, and often of overwhelming power and pathos." T.R.P.

RICHARD PRICE.

Richard Price (1723-1791), Non-conformist minister and writer on morals, politics and economics, was certainly one of the most remarkable men who have ever lived at Talgarth. According to the Dictionary of National Biography, "his father, Rice Price, was a dissenting minister at Bridgend. Young Price seems to have received his early education at many successive academies, the last being one kept by the Rev. Vavasor Griffith at Talgarth, in Breconshire." It has been suggested that the home of the Talgarth "academy" was the house at Chancefield. Such academies existed in the same period at Llwynllwyd, near Glasbury, and Llanwenarth, near Abergavenny. Price left Talgarth for Fund Academy, London, a dissenting college, in his eighteenth year, and later preached in various dissenting churches in Old Jewry, Edmonton, and Newington Green. In 1757 he published his best-known work, a "Review of the Principal Questions on Morals." This brought him the acquaintance of literary men, including Franklin and Hume. His "Dissertations on Providence" and the "Function of Virtuous Men in a Future State," led to his lifelong friendship with Lord Shelburne, raised his reputation, and determined the character of his future pursuits. He was an original member of the Unitarian Society. It was not, however, as a theologian and moralist, but as a writer on financial and political questions, that Price was destined to become known to his countrymen at large. His pamphlet on the National Debt is supposed to have influenced Pitt in restoring the Sinking Fund for its extinction; and another pamphlet on the American Colonies was sold by thousands in a few days. He had received the degree of D.D. from Glasgow University, and now, in the cause of liberty, was presented with the freedom of the city of London. He was bitterly attacked by Burke, and was shunned by Dr. Johnson; but was very friendly with Franklin and Priestley, and corresponded with Turgot. His name thus became identified with the cause of American independence, and he was invited by Congress to transfer himself to America to assist in financial administration. Of his rise and progress, the Dictionary gives a particularly interesting account. His portrait was painted by Benjamin West, and engraved by Sewel and Louison; and he was caricatured by Gillray.

THE REV. WILLIAM WILLIAMS, PANTYCELYN.

"Williams, Pantycelyn," was born near Llandovery, most probably in 1717. Destined for the medical profession, he was sent as a lay student to Llwynllwyd, a farmhouse near Hay, where the Carmarthen College was being conducted at the time by the Rev. Vavasor Gruffydd, minister of Maesgwyn, Radnorshire. When the Rev. Thomas Perrot, who had been his tutor at Carmarthen, died, Gruffydd was appointed as his successor, but as he was unable to leave his church, to suit his convenience, the College was transferred to Llwynllwyd, the house of Mr. Prys, minister of Maesyronen Church.

It was but natural that Williams should come into touch with Howel Harris, who was at this time preaching in his native district, and one day in 1758, when passing through* Talgarth on his way home from Llwynllwyd, Williams heard Howel Harris preach in the churchyard. He was profoundly stirred by this sermon and shortly afterwards he decided to take Holy Orders in the Anglican Church, his own Congregational Church at this time not being very prominent in evangelistic work.

In 1740 he was ordained deacon and became a curate of Llanwrtyd and Abergwesyn; but he never resided in his curacy. A few years later, at the Watford (Caerphilly) Methodist Association, Pantycelyn was persuaded to resign his curacy and become an assistant to Daniel Rowland. After his marriage in 1749 he settled at Pantycelyn, and preached in the neighbourhood until his death in 1791.

His wonderful hymns, full of the spirit of the Evangelical Movement, did as much to promote Methodism as the powerful eloquence of Howel Harris or Daniel Rowland. A complete edition of Pantycelyn's hymns appeared in 1812.

IFOR B. POWELL.

* The Hay road then passed by the church directly towards Porthamel.—ED.

THE REV. THOMAS PRICE (CARNHUANAWC).

Thomas Price was the son of the Rev. Rice Price, vicar of Llanwrthwl, and was born at Pencaer Helen, near Builth, on 2nd October, 1778. He was educated at Christ College, Brecon. His natural ability for drawing and engraving soon brought him to the notice of Theophilus Jones, who was at that time writing his "History of Brecknockshire"; the upshot being that most of the plates in Mr. Jones' book were done by Carnhuanawc. In 1812 he was ordained deacon, and in 1825 he was presented to the living of Cwmdy and the permanent curacy of Tretower.

He made his first appearance as a writer in 1824, when he published a series of papers on "The Celtic Tongue" under the pseudonym Carnhuanawc, which thereafter became his recognised pen-name.

Carnhuanawc was very much interested in the Celtic connections of the Welsh, and he travelled extensively in Celtic countries. In 1829, he published his essay on "The Physiognomy and Physiology of the Present Inhabitants of Britain."

To music Carnhuanawc was also devoted. He was exceedingly fond of the harp, and through his interest a school for players of this instrument was for a time maintained at Brecon. He took an active part in the foundation of the Cymreigyddion or the Welsh Society of Brecon (1823) and that of Abergavenny (1833), of which he was secretary.

In 1836 Carnhuanawc undertook the main task of his life—the "History of Wales." "Hanes Cymru" appeared in fourteen parts, the first being issued in the above year, the last in 1842. The work was printed by Mr. Thomas Williams, of Crickhowell.

The Eisteddfod had a great fascination for Carnhuanawc, and he was one of its most enthusiastic devotees. He won his first essay prize at Welshpool in 1824, and at Llandovery in 1845 he carried off the £80 prize for an essay on "The Comparative Merits of the Remains of Ancient Literature in the Welsh, Irish, and Gaelic Languages." He performed his last service to the

Eisteddfod when he acted as one of the Chairmen of the Abergavenny Eisteddfod of 1848.

Carnhuanawc died on the 8th November of that year and was buried at Cwmdru.

IFOR B. POWELL.

"YSGAFELL."

Talgarth was long the residence of a distinguished lady of letters, whom some of us still remember as a kindly and somewhat stately personage. Miss Jane Williams (1806-1895), the Welsh historian and miscellaneous writer, generally known as Ysgafell, according to the *Dictionary of National Biography*, spent the first half of her life, for her health's sake, at Neuadd Felen, Talgarth, where she acquired a knowledge of the language and a taste for the literature of Wales. She was a descendant of Henry Williams (1624-1684), of Ysgafell, near Newtown, a convert and friend of Vavasor Powell, with whom in 1645 he, Richard Baxter, and others, signed a remonstrance, on behalf of the Nonconformists of the Welsh borders, against Oliver Cromwell's assumption of supreme power. After the restoration, Williams suffered much persecution, and his name is still traditionally associated in Montgomeryshire with a miraculous crop of many-eared wheat, which was regarded as a special blessing bestowed on him.

Ysgafell was the author of a number of works, the latter of which show much literary skill, and are written in a clear and vigorous style. She published in 1869, a *History of Wales*. This work, the result of much research, not always perhaps sufficiently critical, is her best production. It comes down to the end of the Tudor dynasty, and remains even to this day (1900) the best *History of Wales* in the English language. She also wrote on the state of Education in Wales, *Providential Dispensations*, *Cambrian Tales*, *Celtic Tales*, *Fairy Tales and Legends*, and a *History of the Parish of Glasbury*; and in addition to poems, and other works of various character, she published in 1854-5, a *Memoir of the Life of the Rev. Thomas Price, Vicar of Cwmdru*, better known as "Carnhuanawc," the Welsh historian who assisted Theophilus

Jones in his History of the County of Brecknock. Price was an indefatigable worker in all movements which appealed to his fervid patriotism. He died in 1848, and had long been on very friendly terms with his biographer and fellow historian, Ysgafell.

Her brother, Major Ed. Williams, lived at Neuadd Felen for many years. He was a solicitor and held the appointment of Magistrates' Clerk, amongst other offices. He was deeply interested in the Volunteer movement, and was well known in the county.

Through the courtesy of her niece, Mrs. Constance Mills, of Ty'r Bryn, Talgarth, we have the pleasure of presenting some of Ysgafell's poems on local legends and fables, published in 1862. They will be valued as specimens of her literary work in a vein apart from that of her more exacting historical labours.

THE MOLE AND THE LARK.

By YSGAFELL (From the Iolo MSS.)

The sun of May had pierced the wavering sea
Of mists, which wrapped the lofty Mynydd du,
And towards the South pursued his glorious way,
In the clear splendour of unclouded day;
Hills, wild and wooded, filled the varied scene,
The river's brink and mountain range between,
Thick, verdant, fragrant, from their wintry tomb,
Grass, plants and flowers rushed forth to live and bloom,
The Lark, high-soaring in a bright blue sky,
Caroled reviving Nature's ecstasy;
The Mole beneath the sod Spring's impulse felt,
And scorned the darkling cavern where he dwelt.
Ambitious grown to see the landscape fair,
Hear sounds of joy, and breathe the scented air,
Pondering his course, he passed from his abode,
And channeled as he went a vaulted road.
Still bearing upwards patiently he wrought,
Bent to fulfil his long aspiring thought,
He reached the surface, and emerged to light,

Just as the Lark sang hovering from her height.
 Through half-closed eye-lids in the noontide blaze,
 He lifted toward the sound his dazzled gaze,
 Beside the spot where he an outlet found,
 That Lark's nest lay upon the heath-clad ground.
 Swift through his heart the lively contrast sent
 The pangs, unknown before, of discontent :
 "O were I but a Lark, to soar and sing
 Beyond the clouds, with free and buoyant wing,
 In open space, in light and joy to move,
 While heaven and earth look on with smiles of love;
 Rise from my nest to hail the morning light,
 And tell the world of ever new delight !
 But dismal is my lot, and sad, and lone,
 Each forward step invisible, unknown,
 In endless wanderings, wrought with endless toil,
 Through stony ground to pierce, and stubborn soil.
 'Tis mine to dwell and grovel in the dark ,
 A groping Mole, and not a joyous Lark."
 While thus he murmurs, as the Lark descends,
 A Hawk, with wide-spread wings, her flight attends.
 Then pouncing, sets his talons in his prey,
 And rending bears the helpless Lark away.
 That frightened Mole his lofty thought forgot,
 And thankfully preferred his humbler lot.
 "Although," he said, "'tis mine to live obscure,
 With toil and care, I am at least secure;
 No bird of prey my tunnels can invade,
 No danger haunts my subterranean shade;
 Happy, while yet unsafe, one cannot be,
 And care alone works out security."

THE WOOD PIGEON AND THE MAGPIE.

By YSGAFELL (From the Iolo MSS.)

White broad-winged clouds their lofty course pursue,
 Showing or shading Heaven's resplendent blue,
 Or slanting wildly for an instant lower,
 And pour, in hasty wrath, a chilling shower.
 The snows though melted on the mountain crest,
 Streak the deep fissures on its ragged breast.
 Through the thick woods the wind its force applies
 To prove the supple strength which Spring supplies,
 While the bright sun encourages the strife,
 Arousing Nature into vigorous life,
 On woodland slopes, 'mid grass from snowdrifts clear
 Food for bright birds, the chickweeds blooms appear,
 And groundsel ever found where man is near,
 Quick multiplying daisies widely spread
 Their latest blossoms tipped with lively red.
 In fragile elegance unrivalled fly
 The pennon-stars of wood-anemone,
 In sun-lit glades sweet violets dare to dwell,
 And there breathes fresh the fragrant Moschatell,
 By the stream's marshy brink rich Caltha glows,
 On humid banks the glossy pilewort blows,
 Amid the moss-hung clefts of earth-borne roots,
 Through crimp encircling leaves the primrose shoots;
 And honeysuckle's purple leaflets shine,
 Around the trees their flexile stems entwine.
 The blackthorn sprays in fullest bloom are seen,
 Dark spikelets peeping forth white flowers between;
 Their palms the hazel and the willow hold,
 And elder's frost-defying leaves unfold.
 The weaving spider now begins to stir,
 And casts his floating nets of gossamer;
 Now in the sunshine gleams, his wings to try,
 The new-awakened peacock butterfly.
 Bare skeletons yet stand the forest trees,
 But warm within them glow life's energies;

Their swelling buds and reddening twigs betray
 Rich foliage waiting for the warmth of May.
 Upon an aged beech tree by the glade,
 Which scarce one softening twig or bud displayed,
 A Wood-pigeon at ease herself address
 To shape of withered sticks a clumsy nest.
 It chanced a friendly Magpie, passing by,
 Saw the loose structure with a critic's eye.
 She was a wondrous woodland architect,
 Prudent, well-skilled, and able to direct,
 None better knew, through Europe's forests wide,
 Home, warmth, and rest for nestlings to provide;
 None better knew, forewarned by wary sense,
 To make that home a castle of defence;
 It tempts in vain the climbing schoolboy's sight,
 And baulks the swoop of the long-hovering Kite,
 Her fame was great and she deserved it well,
 Of woodland birds she was the oracle.
 As those who real knowledge own
 Love to see every work well done,
 Not in a rude contentious way,
 But gently she began to say,
 "My friend, I'll shew you, with your leave,
 How these loose sticks should interweave.
 Just take this stick, and lay it so ——"
 The Pigeon cried, "I know, I know,"
 While in and out she pushed her bill,
 And left the same confusion still.
 The Magpie tried by soothing speech
 And gentle acts her art to teach,
 But all the care she could bestow
 Was answered by "I know, I know";
 Weary at last of useless stay,
 She stretched her wings and flew away.
 Of self-conceit and false pretence
 Comes ignorance of ignorance;
 No obstacles with greater force
 Can check improvement's onward course."

THE MAMMALS OF THE TALGARTH DISTRICT.

The high state of cultivation and the dense population of England and Wales have resulted in the extinction of nearly all the native mammals, and the fact of Britain being an island prevents the possibility of any wanderers from the wilder parts of Europe re-introducing a species, once it has become extinct. The list of surviving species in the district is therefore a meagre one, and tends to become shorter as the years pass on.

The Wild Cat, *Felis catus*, has probably been extinct for many years now. I remember that about 50 years ago a very large Cat was trapped at Pontywal. It was, unfortunately, buried before I heard of it; but it was dug up. I saw it, and remember it well; it was a very large cat, marked exactly like the Wild Cat, the tail being short and stumpy, and ringed with black. I have no doubt it was a true Wild Cat, or at least had a strong cross of *Felis catus*. The Pine Marten, *Mustela martes*, is also, probably, now quite extinct in the neighbourhood. One was killed at Clyro about 70 years ago; and the last I have heard of was killed in the Henallt Wood between Erwood and Builth about 40 years ago.

The Pole Cat, *Putorius foetidus*, still lingers, but is nearing extinction. One was killed in 1920 on the Llangoed Estate by Mr. Christy's keeper. The Stoat, *Putorius ermineus*, is common, and sometimes in winter it assumes its white dress; but pure white specimens are rare, and generally a good many patches of brown remain. The probable reason is that snow very seldom remains long on the ground in this neighbourhood. The Weasel, *Putorius vulgaris*, is also common.

The Otter, *Lutrea vulgaris*, is common on all our rivers, and often gives good sport to the followers of the Otter hounds.

The Fox, *Canis vulpes*, is plentiful, and has much increased of late years, owing to the curtailment of hunting and game preservation during the war.

The Badger, *Melus taxus*, is much commoner than is generally supposed; but is very seldom seen, owing to its nocturnal

habits. It is an interesting species, doing little or no harm, and should be molested as little as possible.

The Hedge-hog, *Erinaceus europeus*, is fairly common; and, as the old belief that they milked cows is dying out, they are less persecuted, and are consequently becoming more numerous.

The Squirrel, *Sciurus vulgaris*, was abundant a few years ago, but since 1911 they have become scarce. It seems as if their ranks have been thinned by some epidemic disease. I have, however, lately seen several, and they appear to be on the increase again.

The Hare, *Lepus europeus*, has, I am sorry to say, very much decreased since the passing of the Ground Game Act.

The Rabbit, *Oryctolagus cuniculus*, on the contrary, has become much more numerous and widely distributed of late years. The high prices obtained for them during the years 1918 and 1919 have, however, considerably reduced their numbers.

The Dormouse, *Muscardinus avellinus*, is found all over the district, but is far from being common.

The Water Vole, *Microtus amphibius*, is abundant near streams and ponds. The Field Vole, *Microtus agrestis*, and the Bank Vole, *Eutamias glareolus*, are both common. The Long-tailed Field or Wood Mouse, *Mus sylvaticus*, and its variety, *Wintoni*, which may be distinguished by the cross-like mark on the chest, are much too abundant, and do much damage in gardens. The Common Shrew, *Sorex vulgaris*, is common everywhere. Though it is very unusual to find any wild animal or bird dead from natural causes, this species is an exception, and dead specimens are often found. They are in good condition, and have no visible marks of injuries by which death could result. The cause of their death is still a mystery to naturalists.

I have recently found on the road near Erwood a dead specimen of the Pigmy Shrew-house, *Sorex minutus*, and the find is confirmed by South Kensington Museum authorities, to whom I sent the specimen.

The Rat, *Mus decumanus*, is much too common. I once caught at Velinnewydd a true albino rat, pure white with pink

eyes. The Mouse, *Mus musculus*, is also abundant. The Welsh name for mouse is llygoden, and for a rat is llygoden ffrengig. I have seen it said that this meant French or Foreign Mouse, but a good Welsh scholar tells me it means "fierce."

The Mole, *Talpa europæa*, is very common, and although good numbers are trapped every year the supply seems endless.

The Bats.—I have myself seen only four species of Bats in the neighbourhood. The first is the Great Bat or Noctule, *Pterygistes noctule*, which is fairly common. Sir H. Johnston says on page 89 of his "British Mammals," Woburn Library, that it is unknown in Wales; but in this he is quite wrong. Bell in his "British Quadrupeds," page 13, says this Bat remains in activity for a shorter time than any other; and White says he never saw it before the end of April, nor later than July. The earliest date I have seen it flying is April 9th, and I have seen it right on and into October. It is especially common at Glasbury. The Common Bat, *Pipistrellus pipistrellus*, is quite abundant; and the Long-eared Bat, *Plecotus auritus*, is often seen. The Barbastelle, *Barbastella barbastellus*, has been found at Llanelwedd Church, near Builth, where the Rev. D. Edmundes-Owen discovered a large colony in 1904.

J. WILLIAMS-VAUGHAN.

October, 1923.



THE BIRDS OF THE TALGARTH DISTRICT.

The neighbourhood of Talgarth is a favourable one for a lover and observer of our British birds. It is a well-wooded and well-watered district. Llangorse Lake is an ideal haunt for water birds, and the birds of the moors and highlands frequent the Black Mountains and the many other heaths of the district. The area, as a whole, has also never been strictly preserved, and, consequently, many of the rarer birds of prey are to be found.

We may take first the water-loving species. The Great Crested Grebe and the Reed Warbler breed at Llangorse Lake; and some years ago a pair of Redshanks were seen there all through the summer. I think it likely that they bred there, but I cannot say for certain that they did. At one time lately, a good many pairs of Swans nested at the Lake, but the boatmen drove them off, believing that they destroyed the fish spawn, which was very likely the case. The Bald Coot breeds there amongst the reeds in some numbers, and in the winter their ranks are much increased by migrants. From time to time some of the rarer Ducks are met, including the Long-tailed Duck, the Smew, and the Common Scoter—the last-named a rare bird inland. The Widgeon and Teal are common in winter, and so is the Tufted Duck, but not in such large flocks as used to frequent Llanbychlyn Pool, Radnorshire. I have myself seen the Shoveller on the Lake. The Pink-footed, the White-fronted, and the Greylag Goose have all been seen, and sometimes shot in the neighbourhood.

On the hills and moors, wherever the heather grows, the Red Grouse is found, and has certainly much increased of late years, owing to judicious preservation. I believe this is very nearly the limit to the South and West of the Grouse's range in England and Wales. The Black Cock or Black Grouse also occurs, but is not abundant. Curlews breed freely on the upland pastures, and I know of no sound sweeter to the bird-lover than their whistling call in the spring of the year.

The Ring Ouzel nests in many dingles and small ravines amongst the hills, as the Snipe does in many places. The Kestrel

and the Sparrow-hawk are common, and the Buzzard, thanks to preservation, has lately become much more abundant. The Raven is sometimes heard and seen flying over; and the Gray or Royston Crow, though very rare, occurs on migration in most years on the Black Mountains.

On the lower ground, the Tree Sparrow is generally very rare; but I have in several years in the spring seen quite a number together, evidently on migration, in the fields on the Sheephouse Farm, on the roadside between Talgarth and Hay. The Pied Flycatcher, which is generally considered a rare bird, is in some seasons quite common in the woods on the banks of the Wye. The Nuthatch, the Tree Creeper, and the Great Spotted Woodpecker are fairly common.

The Nightingale has been heard in several different years in the neighbourhood of Talgarth. But this beautiful songster is very rare in Wales, except, I believe, near Cardiff. I think it has been observed that this species is generally found on the newer geological formations, and apparently it does not find its favourite food on the Old Red Sandstone or Silurian systems. I have read an old legend that the bird used to come to Wales, but it heard the young Welsh ladies sing so beautifully that it went away, and said it was not required there.

One of the most marked additions to the bird life of the district of late years has been the great increase in the number of Seagulls which frequent the neighbourhood in spring and summer. The Black-headed Gull was almost unknown in this district until about the year 1909, when a few were seen. Since then they have very much increased, and now there are several breeding stations on the Radnorshire and Breconshire hills, and the birds can be seen on the banks of the Wye daily. The Lesser Black-backed Gull is also a visitor every spring; but whether it breeds here or not I have been unable to ascertain. The Goosander is a regular visitor to the Wye in the spring, in some years much more numerous than others, the ducks being always more abundant than the drakes. Occasionally, some of the true birds of the ocean are driven inland by stress of weather, and in this neighbourhood a Manx Shearwater was picked up near Builth; and I myself found

a Fork-tailed or Leach's Petrel dead in a field near the Skreen, Erwood, after a violent storm in November, 1881. The Common Cormorant also occasionally is to be seen up the river Wye. I remember, when quite a small boy, a Cormorant was found alive near Pontybat Blacksmith's shop. It was brought to Velinnewydd, where we were then living, and it remained alive for some weeks in the fountain pond in front of the house. We used to have trout caught for it in the brook and turned into the pool, where it very soon caught and swallowed them. A Kittiwake Gull was picked up dead in Llanvillo churchyard a few years ago.

I add a list of 100 species which have been known to breed in the neighbourhood :—

Mistle-Thrush, Song-Thrush, Blackbird, Water Ouzel, Ring Ousel, Chaffinch, Greenfinch, Bullfinch, Hawfinch, Goldfinch, Yellow Hammer, Cirl Bunting, Linnet, Redpoll, House Sparrow, Whinchat, Stonechat, Wheatear, Skylark, Woodlark, Meadow Pipit, Tree Pipit, Hedge Sparrow, Robin, Pied Wagtail, Yellow Wagtail, Grey Wagtail, Wren, White-throat, Lesser Whitethroat, Blue Tit, Marsh Tit, Coal Tit, Great Tit, Long-tailed Tit, Swift, Swallow, House Martin, Sand Martin, Red-backed Shrike, Willow Warbler, Wood Warbler, Garden Warbler, Reed Warbler, Sedge Warbler, Grasshopper Warbler, Black-Cap, Chiff-Chaff, Pied Flycatcher, Spotted Flycatcher, Green Woodpecker, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Lesser Spotted Woodpecker, Wryneck, Nuthatch, Tree-Creeper, Brand-tail, Gold-crested Wren, Kingfisher, Cuckoo, Raven, Carrion Crow, Rook, Jackdaw, Jay, Magpie, Starling, Wood-pigeon, Stock-dove, Turtle-dove, Brown Owl, White Owl, Long-eared Owl, Buzzard, Kestrel, Sparrow-Hawk, Merlin, Snipe, Peewit, Golden Plover, Summer Snipe, Woodcock, Coot, Moorhen, Wild-duck, Teal, Heron, Land-rail, Water-rail, Nightjar, Red Grouse, Black Grouse, Partridge, French Partridge, Great Crested Grebe, Dabchick, Curlew, Reed Bunting, Black-headed Gull, Quail.

J. WILLIAMS-VAUGHAN.

July, 1920.

FISH AND FISHING.

The local distribution of fish is a subject of interest to both angler and naturalist. Before the destruction of Porthamel weir, dace were not seen above it; since that time they have been seen above Bronllys Castle bridge. Salmon migrate up the Llynfi and Dulais, but are not known to reach Llangorse Lake. The minnow reaches the Green or Aberenig bridge, and a little above it, but never comes up as far as the Tower bridge. The same applies to the Stone Loach (locally Crachen). Grayling, which is abundant in the Wye, and has from all accounts been abundant there for centuries, never ascends the Llynfi, neither does it ascend from the Monnow into the Honddu in Llanthony valley, and does not occur at all in the Usk or its tributaries. The writer has not seen a gudgeon in the Llynfi or Enig, though they are found as high as Builth at least, and also in the Brecon Canal. The Bullhead (locally Poomble) used to be very plentiful in the Enig, but was never eaten. The ancient Greeks and Romans were said to be fond of it, but Sir Herbert Maxwell says it does not occur in Greece or Spain, is rare in Ireland, and has not been reported from Scotland. It was said by many writers that its flesh was pink. Mr. J. H. Keene found it to be white, and speaks in high praise of this little fish as a delicacy. Those who can recollect many happy days of childhood spent in "paddling in the burn from morning sun till dine," like John Ridd on the Bagworthy, after loach and such small deer, will perhaps be glad to know that the great Aristotle did not disdain to notice bullhead fishing. He says, "there occur in rivers certain little fish found under stones, which some people call Cottoi. From their lying under stones, people catch them by striking these stones with other stones, when the fish, being stunned, fall out." The philosopher argued from this that fish can hear. Leonard Mascall, in his Boke of Fishing with Hooke and Line (1590), considered this fish by no means unworthy of attention. He suggested breeding them, and thought them "holesome" to be eaten of feeble persons having an ague or other sickness." Bullheads were occasionally paid as tithe in England, as eels also were. Lampreys and lamperns ascend the

Usk from the sea; and the lampern (locally nine-holes) ascends most of the brooks at Talgarth. The similar but smaller Pride or mud lamprey is found in the Wye area, but is a doubtful migrant. The lampreys are noteworthy as possessing only one nostril, round mouths without jaws, and seven gill openings. The known migrants are salmon, eel, shad, lamprey, and lampern. Carp used to be found in the pond at Dderw, and in Llangorse Lake.

LIST OF FRESHWATER FISH IN THE DISTRICT.

There are 20 known species, belonging to 12 genera, 8 families, and 2 subclasses of the Class Pisces (Fishes).

1. In the Sub-Class Teleostei (bony-framed) and the Acanthopterygii (spiny-finned), there are 3 species:—

Family	Genus	Species	English Name
Percidae	Perca	Fluviatilis	Perch
Cottidae	Cottus	Gobio	Bullhead
Gastrosteidae	Gastrosteus	Aculeatus	Stickleback

2. In the Sub-Class Teleostei and the Order Physostomi (bladder-duct), there are 14 species:—

Family	Genus	Species	English Name
Cyprinidae	Cyprinus	Carpio	Carp
"	Gobio	Fluviatilis	Gudgeon.
"	Leuciscus	Rutilus	Roach
"	"	Cephalus	Chub
"	"	Vulgaris	Dace
"	"	Phoxinus	Minnow
"	"	Tinca	Tench
"	Nemachilus	Barbatulus	Stone-Loach
Esocidae	Esox	Lucius	Pike
Salmonidae	Salmo	Salar	Salmon
"	"	Fario	Trout
"	Thymallus	Vulgaris	Grayling
Murenidae	Anguilla	Vulgaris	Eel
"	"	Latirostris	Broadnosed Eel

3. In the Sub-Class Cyclostomata (round-mouthed), and the Order Marsipobranchii (pouch-gilled), there are 3 species:—

Family	Genus	Species	English Name
Petromyzon- tidae	Petromyzon	Marinus	Lamprey
"	"	Fluviatilis	Lampern
"	"	Branchialis	Pride

A somewhat rare fish that may be looked for in both the Usk and Wye tributaries is the Spined Loach (*Cobitis taenia*) of the Cyprinidae family. Its habits are those of the ordinary or stone

loach, but it differs in possessing under each eye a small bifid spine, which normally lies flat, but is lifted in presence of danger. Its object is probably to protect the eye, and its hinder and longer limb is of the same length as the diameter of the eye. The body is more compressed laterally than that of the stone loach, and is marked on each side with black blotches in two lines, with dots between on an orange ground; and a black streak extends from eye to lip. Its known range in the British Isles is the southern and midland counties of England, and it has not been reported from Scotland or Ireland (20).

The myth that horsehairs in water became eels is probably due to the presence in streams of hair-like worms, species of *Gordius* and related genera, belonging to a distinct group of the Gordiacea, parasitic in some insects during their earlier stages.

Occasionally a fish much larger than salmon finds its way into the Severn, Usk and Wye, namely, the Sturgeon (*Acipenser sturio*). There are records of a Sturgeon found near Shrewsbury, and of one caught below Builth Wells, in 1832, weighing 131 lbs., and measuring 7 ft. 6 ins. in length. Two migrants of the Herring family (*Clupea*) the Allis Shad (*Clupea alosa*) and the Twaite Shad (*C. finta*) appear in the Usk just below the town of Usk, and in the Wye as far as Symond's Yat, where anglers occasionally catch them, the Allis in May and the Twaite a few weeks later. The two shads can be distinguished by their gill-rakers, Allis having 60-70, and Twaite 21-27. A reliable observer reports having seen Shad at Glasbury. The returns for Wye salmon fishing for 1920 were the best for all the rivers of England and Wales, says Mr. J. Arthur Hatton. 4,295 salmon and grilse were taken with rods and 2,110 with nets. The average weight of the rod fish was 15.72 lbs. The best stretch was Builth to Hay, with 37.2 per cent. of the total.

T.R.P.

A local angler writes :—Fishing in the Talgarth district would be exceptionally good, if illegal fishing could be stopped. During the spring months, salmon paste is used freely, and one hears of 30 to 50 lbs. of trout being thus taken in one night. The writer, who has been fishing in this neighbourhood for 35 years, has only on one occasion been requested by a water bailiff to produce a fishing licence. Consequently poachers are fairly safe, and take full advantage of the laxity of supervision by the responsible authority.

The Llynfi, Dulas and Enig are ideal trout streams, but are unfortunately not like the widow's cruse, and if it were not for

the stocking of fish in the lower reaches of the Llynfi, the local brooks would soon be practically depleted of trout—thanks to Brecon and local poachers. The brooks are much overgrown, and fly-fishing is almost impracticable, except by an adept in the gentle craft. When, however, the adept appears, he succeeds in getting some good baskets, as an artificial fly is an unknown quantity to many a wily trout lying in almost inaccessible spots.

The best fishing period is undoubtedly the May-fly season, when dapping is indulged in by the local anglers. This mode of fishing is not permitted in many rivers, being considered too deadly. The writer, who always fishes with the artificial fly, once killed 11 lbs. of trout in the Llynfi Dead Pool in a couple of hours in the May-fly season.

Chub and Dace are now numerous in the Llynfi and Dulas. These fish made their appearance in the upper reaches after Porthamel Weir was demolished. Small Pike are caught occasionally by those fishing with the artificial minnow. A.G.P.

REPTILIA.

The Adder or Viper (*Vipera communis*), our only venomous reptile, seldom exceeds 12 inches in length, and can be identified by a V mark on its head, a dark chain of diamond-shaped spots along its back, and its finely tapering tail. It is rare in the Talgarth district; but is found on the sunny slopes of the Black Mountains and the Radnorshire hills, where it hibernates in rocky places. The old idea that it cannot cross wood-ashes is correct to the extent that for progression the scales must get a grip of the soil, and dust or wood-ashes prevents this. The only viper secured by the writer was caught on a dusty road, where its progress was difficult. It was very defiant, and its little red eyes shone like rubies. The two so-called "legs" of the viper, which appear when the live reptile is heated at a fire, as is sometimes done by quarrymen, are apparatus connected with reproduction.

The Grass Snake (*Tropidonotus natrix*) called also Ring Snake, reaches a length of four feet. It is easily recognised by its two yellow or white spots behind the head. It is quite harmless; and feeds chiefly on frogs and toads. It is common in

the Usk valley below Abergavenny; but the present writer has not seen it in Breconshire. It is said to be very rare there; though its eggs have been found in manure heaps.

The Blindworm, or Slowworm (*Anguis fragilis*) is fairly common. It possesses rudimentary limbs, and is not strictly a snake, but allied to the lizards. Its maximum length is about 15 inches and its movements are rapid, except when basking in the sunshine, when it can be observed. The epithet Slow, probably was at first Slough, but some dictionaries give its early form as Anglo-Saxon slayworm. It is, however, quite harmless. Its scientific name is due to its remarkable brittleness, a property noticeable in lizards' tails. It is ovoviviparous. The young are milk-white, with a black line down the middle, whilst after the first year the colour is dark bronze. Its colour varies, but generally it is coppery above and bluish-grey beneath.

Of the three British lizards, the Common Lizard (*Lacerta vivipara*), the Sand Lizard (*Lacerta agilis*), and the Green Lizard (*Lacerta viridis*), the third alone has been seen by the writer in Breconshire.

T.R.P.

AMPHIBIA.

Newts, locally called Ascats, are wrongly charged with being venomous. Of the three British species, the only one which is common in the district is the Common Newt, *Triton Vulgaris*, which lives in stagnant pools during its breeding season only. *Triton Cristatus*, the Crested or Large Newt, which is common near London, and *Triton palmatus*, also a crested newt, are not recorded in the district.

The local Amphibia include the Common Frog (*Rana temporaria*); the Common Toad (*Bufo vulgaris*), $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches long, blackish, with toes half-webbed; and the Natterjack Toad (*Bufo calamita*), $2\frac{1}{4}$ inches long, yellowish, with toes not webbed. The male Natterjack makes a gluck-gluck sound.

T.R.P.

CRUSTACEA.

Compared with giant crustaceans of the Old Red Sandstone, and the great variety of crustaceans in the Silurian formation, their representatives of to-day in this area appear diminutive in size and few in number.

The River Crayfish (*Astacus fluviatilis*) is common in the lower reaches of the brooks of Breconshire. The present writer and a friend have, on three occasions only, seen a small true Crab in the Enig and Dulais, which may be the Freshwater Crab (*Potamon fluviatile*); but no record of such a crab has been received at the Natural History Museum from any part of the British Isles. It is common in Southern Europe, and is known as the Lenten Crab.

The Freshwater Shrimp or Flea (*Gammarus pulex*) is common in wells and brooks; some allied species found in wells are blind.

Minute forms such as *Cyclops quadricornus* occur in clear stagnant water. No local student of crustaceans has been available for consultation, except in the case of Isopods. T.R.P.

THE TALGARTH ELMS.

The busy hands that planted these
Have long been laid to rest;
But green and fair their labour lives,
And makes their memory blest.

We joyed to greet the swelling buds,
The nesting rooks in spring,
The whispering cloud of summer leaves
O'ershadowing everything.

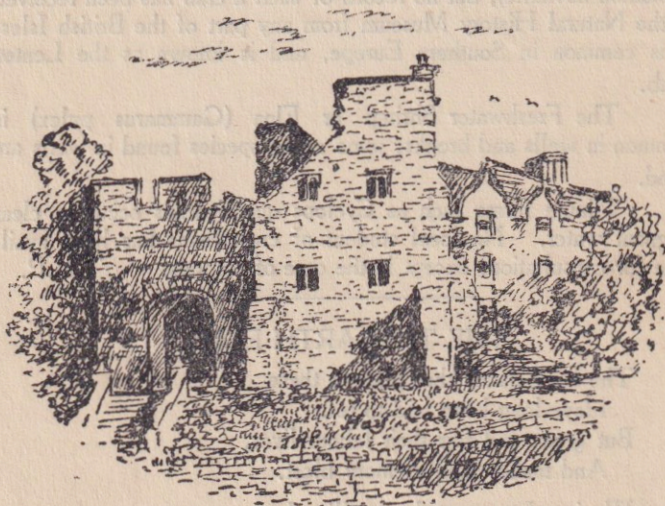
These giants are no common trees,
Their rootlets reach the heart:
They waken tenderest memories
That make the teardrops start.

Long may they live in majesty,
The glory of their prime
Retaining to a hale old age
Untouched, except by Time.

T. R. P.

HAY.

The Saxons did not advance farther in the direction of Breconshire than Glasbury, a few miles to the West of Hay. As the Welsh held Brecknock at the time of the Conquest, its lands do not figure in Domesday Book. At Clifford Castle Fair Rosamond, the daughter of Walter de Clifford was born. Her father also held Bronllys Castle, and it is probable that Giraldus must have seen her in one of these castles. She became the mistress of King



Henry II., and is reputed to have been killed by Eleanor, his queen, at Woodstock. Some think, however, that she died in her girlhood, and that the story of the queen's vengeance is mythical.

The position of Hay, on the actual border, long gave the place unique importance, and it became a market for exchange of goods between Welsh and English. It was a hedged town, called by the Normans *La Haie Taillée* and by the Welsh *Y Gelli Gandryll*. Indeed, the Welsh still call it *Gelli*, and the Norman '*La Haie*' survives as '*The Hay*.' Hay Castle was built by the Normans, it is said by de Breos, and was at one time held by William de Breos, lord of Brecknock. His wife, Maud (or

Matilda) de Valerie, a warlike lady, is still locally referred to as Moll Walbee. Hay Castle was rased by Henry II., and was re-built or restored by Humphrey Bohun, lord of Hereford.

Hay was almost destroyed in 1216 by Lewis, the dauphin of France, who had been invited into England by the barons disaffected to King John. In 1403 it was burnt by the rebel Owen Glyndwr, and reduced to a small village. In 1769 Hay was described as a pretty good town, with a considerable weekly market on Thursdays for corn, cattle and provisions; and three fairs for horses, horned cattle and sheep. At this time Talgarth had six fairs in the year, and Brecon four fairs and two weekly markets. (5) In 1795 the handsome bridge of seven stone arches at Hay was swept away by a great flood, which also destroyed the bridges at Glasbury and Whitney.

Leland writes :—"When I approached nere the Hay and began to descend from thens I saw on the hither side of the Wy the castel of Clereho. After passing over Wy River, the whiche for lak of good knowing yn me of the fourde did sore troble my horse, I cam in crepusculo to the Hay."

Leland describes The Hay and mentions Mall Walbere.

Hay, says Camden, now being almost totally decayed, it complains of that rebel, Owen Glyndowrdwy, who, in his march through these countries, consumed it with fire. The ruins of a castle are still to be seen here, and this town is generally believed to have been a Roman station, from the remains of a Roman wall, and several Roman coins having been found here.

The Gaer on the opposite side of the Wye was a Roman site, and the Roman road there was that running from Magna to Bannium.

LLANIGON.

The church is dedicated to Saint Eigen. The Welsh suppose that Eigen, daughter of Caractacus, was converted to Christianity whilst at Rome, and returned to Britain as the wife of Sarlog, ruler of Old Sarum, and she is held to have been the first female saint of the British Church. But this is mere myth. (24). Equally unreliable is the tradition of Saint Paul's preaching in this neighbourhood. An account of the old Llanigon feasts is given under the head of Parish Feasts and Fairs.

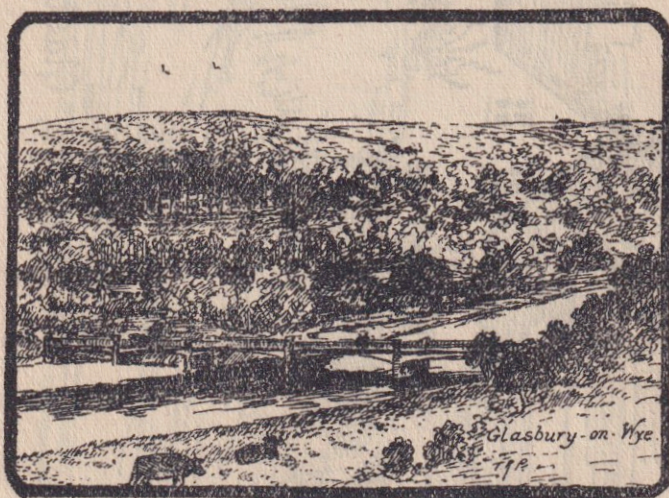
A long barrow, pear-shaped, was excavated on Penyworld farm in this parish in the summer of 1921, by the Rev. W. E. T. Morgan (vicar), and Mr. George Marshall, F.S.A., Hon. Sec. of the Woolhope Club. The cist consisted of four upright stones, the largest on the north and south being over 6 ft. long by 5½ ft. high; the other two being smaller. In the cist proper were found a number of bones, human and animal, which were sent to Professor Keith for examination. He reported that they were bones of men, women and children of the Neolithic age. There were also some fragments of black pottery, and a few flint flakes. Outside the cist, probably indicating later burials, were discovered some blue glass beads, which experts pronounced to be of the second or third century. A coin was also picked up of the Roman Emperor Crispus, circa 320 A.D.

Leland says:—"Clindama, a lordship within a mile of Hay. In it is no market toune nor castel, but at Llanigo appeariht a tour tanouam noxiorum custodiae deputata." Clindama has been identified as Glynbwch, dama meaning stag; but nothing is known of the tower referred to by Leland.

Mr. A. Bruntnell, the son of a blacksmith and innkeeper of Llanigon, has been Minister of Education in the New South Wales Cabinet, and Minister for Public Health holding Cabinet rank. He was born at Llanigon, and was educated there in the National School, and at Hampton, Glasbury, under Mr. Wm. Vaughan.

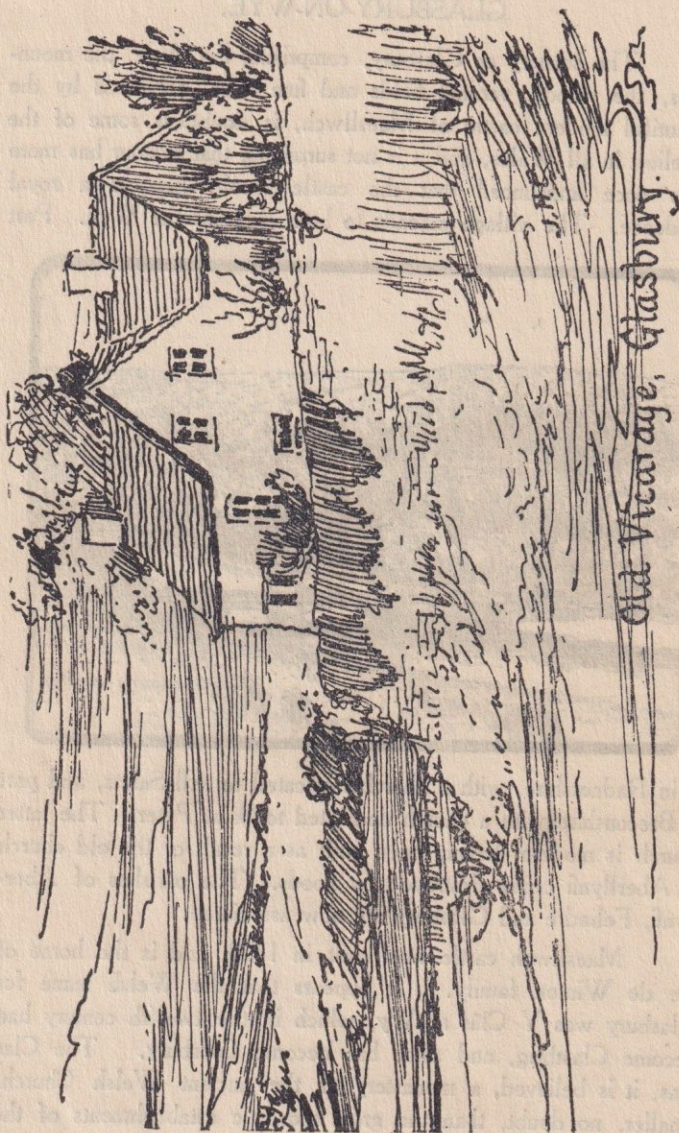
GLASBURY-ON-WYE.

The scenery at Glasbury, comprising the Wye, the mountains, the woods, verdant fields and fine trees, enhanced by the beautiful modern castle of Maesllwch, is doubtless some of the loveliest in all Wales, and it is not surprising that rumour has more than once announced that the castle would become a royal residence. The village extends to both sides of the Wye. Part



is in Radnorshire, with a church dedicated to All Saints, and part in Breconshire with a church dedicated to Saint Peter. The latter church is modern, having been built as a result of the old church at Aberllynfi being destroyed by floods. The parishes of Aberllynfi, Felindre and Glasbury are now associated.

Maesllwch castle was built in 1829, and is the home of the de Winton family. It appears that the Welsh name for Glasbury was Y Clâs ar Wy, which in the twelfth century had become Clastbrig, and since has become Glasbury. The Clâs was, it is believed, a monastery of the ancient Welsh Church, smaller, no doubt, than the great monastic establishments of the sixth and seventh centuries, but of the same general type, and in many cases, for instance at Llantwit and St. David's, carrying on



the traditions of the age of the saints." It belonged to Cynidr, Kenider de Glesbri, a grandson of Brychan of Talgarth. "The connection of Cynidr with Glasbury is clear, notwithstanding that his place as patron of the parish has long been taken by St. Peter." (6). There is still a Ffynon Gynidr in the parish.

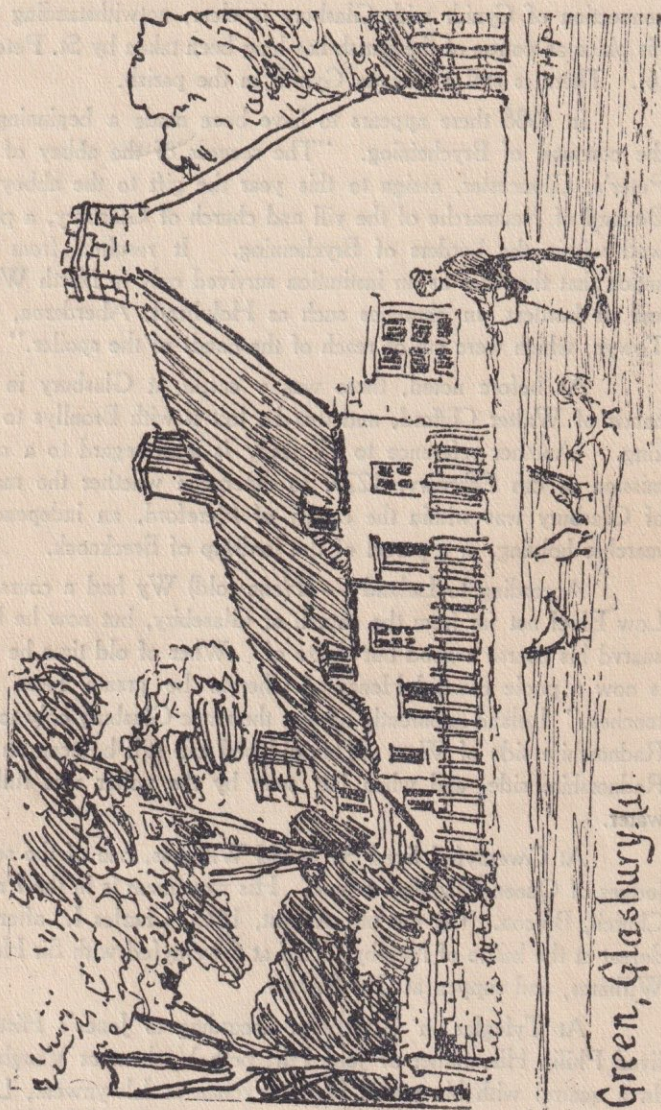
In 1088 there appears to have been made a beginning of the conquest of Brycheiniog. "The records of the abbey of St. Peter's, Gloucester, assign to this year the gift to the abbey by Bernard of Neumarche of the vill and church of Glasbury, a place well within the borders of Brycheiniog. It resulted from this action that the Clas as an institution survived only in North Wales and its borders, in churches such as Holyhead, Aberdaron, and Towyn, which were out of reach of the hands of the spoiler." (6).

As before noted, there was a castle at Glasbury in the hands of Walter Clifford, and that he lost it with Bronllys to the king. Another reference to Glasbury is with regard to a commission of 8th February, 1275, to determine whether the manor of Glasbury was within the county of Hereford, an independent marcher holding, or a parcel of the lordship of Brecknock.

According to Leland:—"Hene (old) Wy had a course in Low Elvel not far from the church of Glasebiry, but now he hath suarvd his course a good but shotte of. Wher of old time he ran, is now a poole cawllid Henewy, wherein be greate lucas and tenches." Leland apparently applies the name Glasbury only to the Radnorshire side of Wye. This old bed can still be seen on the Radnorshire side, and when last seen by the writer was full of water.

At Gwernyfed lived Sir David Williams, one of the seven judges of Queen Elizabeth's time. His monument is in the Priory Church, Brecon. On the 6th August, 1645, Charles I., after his defeat at the battle of Naseby, dined at Gwernyfed with Sir Henry Williams, and supped at Old Radnor.

At Tyleglas in Glasebury, according to Jones's History, lived Philip Hir, father of John Hir, both Vychans or Vaughans. In a quarrel with his cousin David Fychan at Llwynwent, Llanbister, over the extent of their estates, John and David fought with swords, and David was run through the body and killed. David's

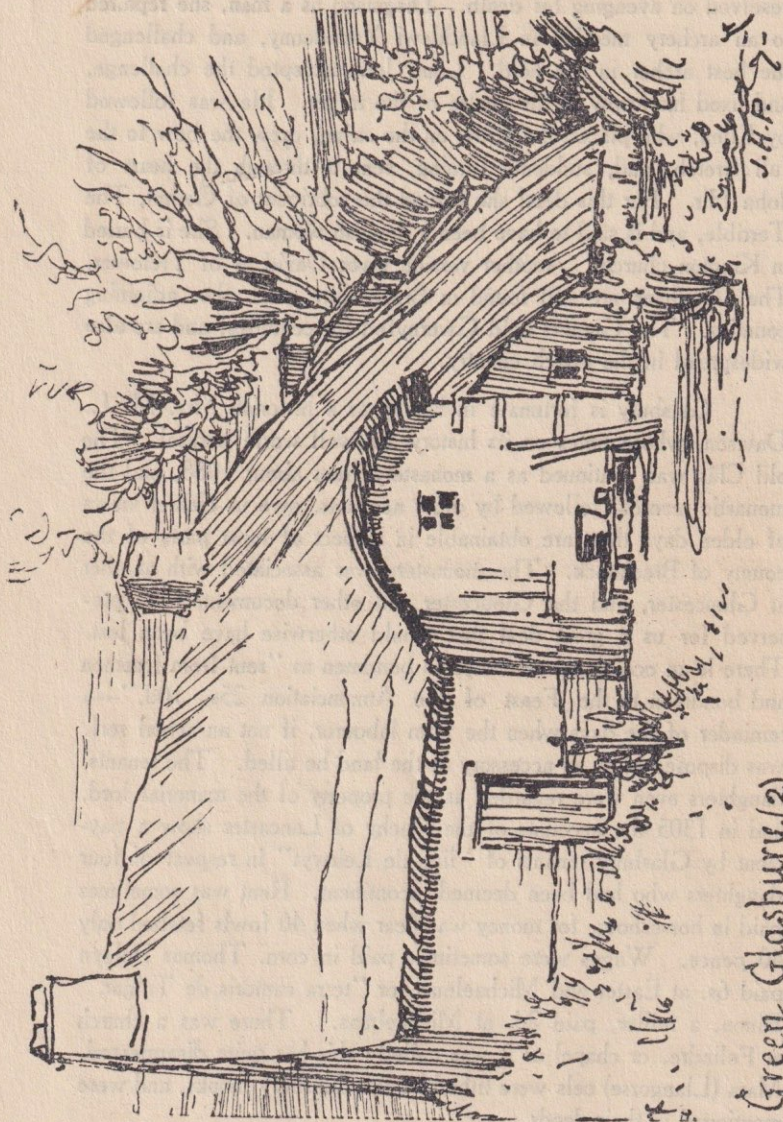


Green, Glasbury. (1)

sister, Ellen, wife of Thomas ap Rosser Vaughan of Hergest, resolved on avenging his death. Disguised as a man, she repaired to an archery meeting in Llanddewi Ystradenny, and challenged the best archer in the field. Long John accepted the challenge, and fixed his arrow in the centre of the target. He was followed by Ellen, who placed the arrow on the string, drew the bow to the full stretch, and, suddenly turning, sent it through the heart of John Hir. For this deed she earned the sobriquet of Gethin, The Terrible, and is said to have been a devilish woman. She is buried in Kington church. Another version gives David as of Tretower. The Vaughans are still found in Breconshire and the adjoining counties. The Gunters held Gwernyfed for centuries, and are also widespread in the march country.

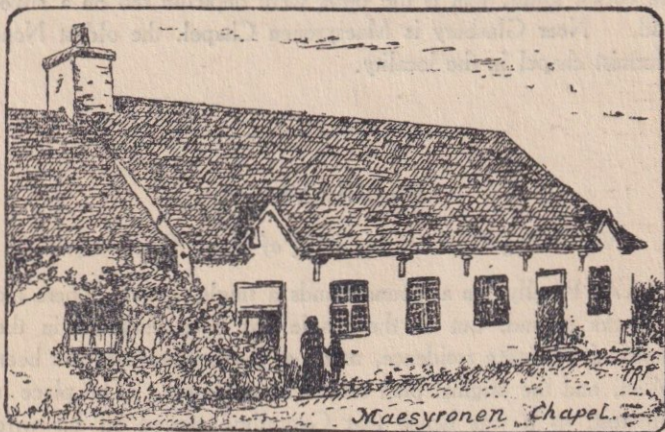
Glasbury is fortunate in having as a historian Mrs. M. L. Dawson, whose notes on its history are well worth perusal. The old Clâs was continued as a monastery from about 1088, and the monastic records, followed by other accounts, give us clearer views of olden days than are obtainable in respect of most parts of the county of Brecknock. The monastery was associated with another at Gloucester, and the Gloucester and other documents have preserved for us a great deal that would otherwise have been lost. There is an occasional reference to bondmen as "rent from freemen and bondmen to the Feast of the Annunciation 25s. 10d."—a reminder of the days when the farm labourer, if not an actual serf, was disposed of as an accessory of the land he tilled. The tenants' daughters even were regarded as the property of the manorial lord, and in 1305 the accounts of the Duchy of Lancaster show a payment by Glasbury tenants of "iiijs de Leirwyt" in respect of four daughters who had been deemed incontinent. Rent was sometimes paid in horseshoes, for money was dear when 40 fowls fetched only 40 pence. Wages were sometimes paid in corn. Thomas Poleyn paid 6s. at Easter and Michaelmas for "terra cantoris de Talgar." Einon, a miller, paid 2d. at Michaelmas. There was a church at Felindre, or chapel as it was called: this has quite disappeared. Mara (Llangorse) eels were tithed by the Glasbury monks, and were mentioned in their deeds.

In 1056 the battle of Clastbirig (Glasbury) called by the



Green, Glasbury.(2)

Welsh Gwaith Machawy, took place. Bishop Leofgar of Hereford "went in the force against Griffith the Welsh King, and he was slain, and his priests with him, and Aelfnoth the shire-reeve, and many good men with them, and the others fled away. This was eight days before midsummer. It is difficult to tell the distress and all the marching and camping and the travail and destruction of men and horses which all the English army endured, says the *Anglo-Saxon Chronicle*, until Leofric the Earl [Lady Godiva's husband] came hither, and Harold the Earl [afterwards King] and Bishop Aldréd, and made a peace between them; and Griffith



swore oaths that he would be to King Edward a faithful and unbetraying under-king." The Machawy brook in Radnorshire is some miles away from the present Glasbury, but the Welsh Chronicles corroborate the report. Mrs. Dawson suggests that Taren-yr-Esgob may be the scene of Leofgar's death, as tradition says that there a bishop, fleeing from his enemies, met his end. Glasbury parish extends to Capel-y-ffin, within sight of the Taren. A bishop who is known to have passed this way was Archbishop Baldwin, whose progress gave rise to the name of Pont-yr-Esgob on the same route.

Glasbury appears to have suffered by the warfare with Llewelyn in 1265, and Owen Glyndwr did not spare it, for in 1403 a valuation of Clifford and Glasbury lordships was to be that

"before they were burnt, devastated and destroyed by the Welsh under Owen Glendower."

Pipton has a long and interesting history. It is the Piperton where Llewelyn, the last native prince of Wales, lodged with his huge host of soldiers and made a treaty with Simon de Montfort and Henry III. Llewelyn is said to have devastated the country round, and levelled Maud's Castle to the ground. (25). The Lady Edelfreda had a chapel at Pipton; and Gwgan's descendant Einion Sais lived there. Three Cocks Station take its name from a local inn, which bore the arms of Einion. His shield was argent, three cocks, gules, that is the birds were depicted red on a silver shield. Near Glasbury is Maesyronen Chapel, the oldest Non-conformist chapel in the locality.

BRONLLYS.

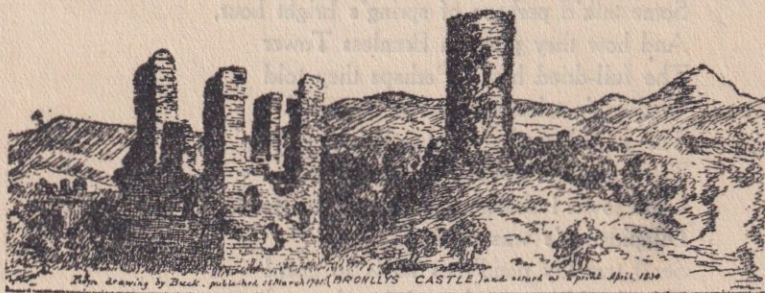
Mr. Baring Gould in his *Book of South Wales* says :—

At Bronllys on a mound stands a single tower. There are earthworks around, but as the whole has been enclosed in the grounds of a private residence, much of the embankment has been levelled, and the original plan cannot be made out. The place is of interest, as it was hence that Gwynllyw carried off his wife Gwladys. Gwynllyw had sent his respectful compliments to Brychan, and with them a request for the hand of his daughter. Brychan returned a curt refusal. Gwynllyw, very wroth, armed three hundred serfs, and crossing the mountains, came down on Talgarth, and pushed forward to Bronllys, where they came on the young lady "sitting with her sisters, and passing the time in modest conversation." Gwynllyw at once set her behind him on his horse and rode away with the lady. Brychan, having heard of this high-handed proceeding, went in pursuit. As they rode over the mountains, Brychan caught up with the ravisher, and a fight ensued, when a great many fell on both sides, but Brychan suffered worst, and had to withdraw. Gwynllyw pursued his course, and fell in with King Arthur and his company. "Arthur was immediately seized with love towards the lady, and full of bad thoughts." He

would have fought the Prince of Gwentloog and carried off the fair Gladys, had he not been dissuaded from so doing by some of his counsellors. Gwynllyw is the Saint Woolo of Newport, Mon.

Mr. Baring-Gould does not give his authority for the story; which contains a suggestion that Brychan's family lived at Bronllys.

The old writers, and some modern ones, spell this word Bronllys in many ways. Leland says :—"Brynelles (a place where the russhis grouith) Castel in the hundred of Cantecely." Leland attempts another definition of the word as "Brynlllys, the Court of man Brwyn." In a list of local bards occurs the name of Bedo Brwynllys, 1460, with Gwynfardd Brecheiniog, 1137, and Thomas Jones of Talgarth, 1700.



Early writers on the subject of Bronllys Castle were impressed by it as being Phoenician in character; but this idea is evidently as fallacious as the local tradition that a covered way extends therefrom to Dinas Castle. All that remains of the Castle at present is the tower near the junction of Enig and Llynfi, and this ruin owes its continued existence to the fact that its walls are strong, thick and hard to destroy. Buck's drawing of this castle, published in 1741, shows then another large ruin near the tower. This had disappeared before the time of Fenton's visit in 1804, and he notes the fact. He says, "In Buck's views of this castle there is a considerable portion represented scarce any trace of which now remains."

When Bloomfield saw it in 1807, he notes, "The only remaining tower of Brunless Castle now makes an excellent hay-

loft; and almost every building on the spot is composed of fragments." His memories of the visit are recorded in *The Banks of Wye*:—

No roadside cottage smoke was seen,
Or rarely, on the village green:
No youths appear'd in spring-tide dress,
In ardent play, or idleness.
Brown waved the harvest, dale and slope
Exulting bore a nation's hope;
Sheaves rose as far as sight could range,
And every mile was but a change
Of peasants lab'ring, lab'ring still,
And climbing many a distant hill,
Some talk'd perhaps of spring's bright hour,
And how they piled in Brunless Tower
The full-dried hay. Perhaps they told
Tradition's tales, and taught how old
The ruined castle? False or true,
They guessed it—just as others do.
Lone tower! though suffer'd yet to stand,
Dilapidation's wasting hand
Shall tear thy pond'rous walls to guard
The slumb'ring steed, or fence the yard;
Or wheels shall grind thy pride away
Along the turnpike road to Hay,
Where fierce Glendow'r's rude mountaineers
Left war's attendants, blood and tears,
And spread their terrors many a mile,
And shouted round the flaming pile.

Professor Lloyd, in his *History of Wales*, mentions Bronllys. He says:—"It is not certain when the commote called Cantref-Selyf (it was but a part of the old Cantref of that name) came into the possession of the Clifford family, but about the middle of the twelfth century, Walter, son of Richard Fitz-Pons, is in possession of it and rules it from his castle of Bronllys overhanging the Llynfi."

This Walter de Clifford was the father of Fair Rosamond,

mistress of Henry II. She probably spent many a day at Bronllys Castle. Her family obtained Glasbury Castle from William de Breos somewhere between the years 1199 and 1210,



according to Mrs. Dawson, who quotes the grant at length. Fair Rosamond is said to have died in or about 1177. "In 1175 Mahel, of the family of the then lords of Brecknock, was killed in a fire

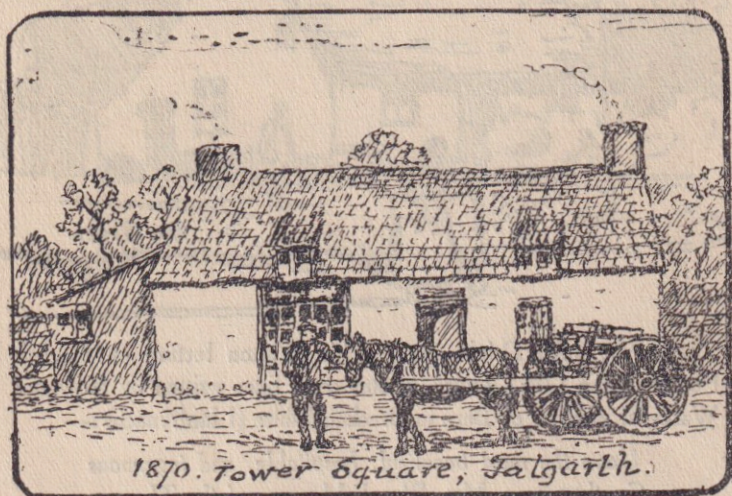
which broke out at Walter Clifford's castle at Bronllys, when a stone from the summit of the keep fell on his head," says one account. It appears, however, that death was not immediate, for he had time to beg pardon of the bishop he had persecuted.

Walter de Clifford was followed by a son and by a grandson bearing the same name. The second Walter was a great soldier, and was several times Sheriff of Herefordshire. He died in 1221, and was followed by his son, Walter. He was a favourite of Henry III. until he rebelled. "His lands were seized before August 23, 1233, and the king was soon in possession of the Castle of Brenles and Glasbury. At the same time his knight, Hugh of Kinnersley, lost Aberllynfi. He made his peace on 17th September at Shrewsbury, and was with the king in the war at the end of the year." (6). This was during the life-time of Llewelyn the Great.

This Walter was the fiery baron of whom the old historian, Matthew Paris, relates that on one occasion when the king sent him a mandate, he compelled the royal messenger to eat the letter, seal and all. This piece of temper nearly cost him his life, but by the king's special favour he was allowed to condone the offence by payment of 1000 marks. He is said to have died in 1263, leaving a daughter, Maud, who was grand-daughter of Prince Llewelyn, her mother being Margaret, the Prince's daughter. At twelve years old she was married, by the king's command, to William Longspee, Earl of Salisbury; but six years later the young earl was killed in a tournament. Maud was a widow still in her teens when her father's death left her heiress of his vast estates. She was forcibly carried away from her manor house of Kemerton by John Giffard of Brimsfield, who eventually got the king's leave to marry her. It is recorded of this Giffard that he had licence from the king to hunt wolves. By this marriage he came into possession of Brunlas Castle, the manor of Glasbury, and the manor and castle of Clifford, being seized of them at his death, 27 Edward I. We learn that the manor of Pipton was held of the Honour of Brynlllys, and the overlordship passed to the families of Clifford, Giffard, de Bohun and Stafford, and escheated to the Crown on the attainder of the last Duke of Buckingham in 1483. (25).

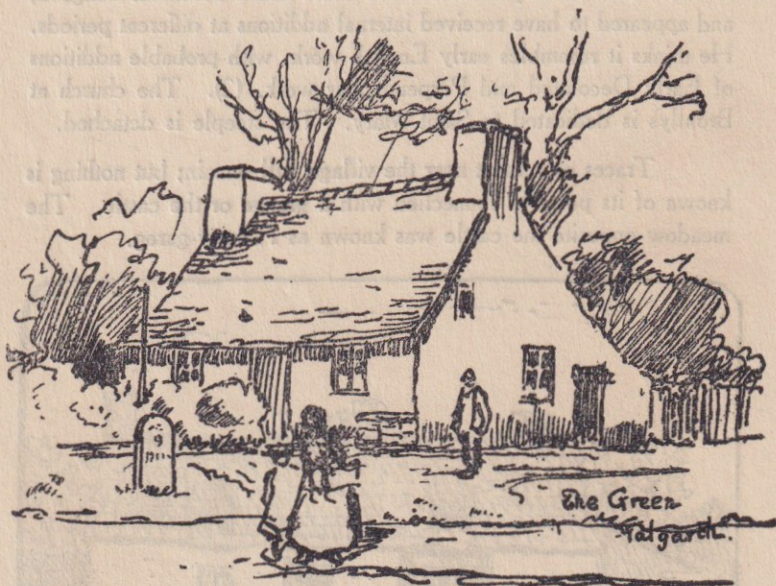
Clark, in his *Mediaeval Military Architecture*, gives a full account of the tower. He is of opinion that the mound on which it built is artificial to a great extent, and is much older than the tower itself, or it would not have borne the immense weight so well; and suggests that to the base of the north side had been applied a vallum nearly rectangular, which may or may not be a Roman addition to a Keltic camp. He found indications of a keep tower standing in a base court, with work of the same character as the existing tower. This tower possessed three floors and a basement dungeon, and appeared to have received internal additions at different periods. He thinks it resembles early English work, with probable additions of Early Decorated and Perpendicular work. (2). The church at Bronllys is dedicated to Saint Mary. The steeple is detached.

Traces of a moat near the village still remain; but nothing is known of its possible connection with a grange or the castle. The meadow opposite the castle was known as *Holm-y-gareg*.



LLYSWEN.

Llyswen is beautifully situated on a bend of the Wye. It is said that it was the site of a palace of the princes of South Wales. Dderw was the home of the Mistress Blanch Morgan, an heiress, whose marriage with a Morgan of Tredegar brought so much Breconshire property to the family of Lord Tredegar.



Mr. John Drinkwater, in his Warton lecture on English Poetry of the 17th Century, quotes some lines written by Rowland Watkyns, minister of Baru in Brecknockshire (Llanfrynach):—

*Upon the most beautiful, hospitable, and ingenuous
Gentlewoman, Mrs. Blanch Morgan, of the Therow.
Some fragrant flowers the smell, some trees the sight
Do much content, some pearls are wondrous bright;
There's not so sweet a flower, so fair a tree,
So pure a gemme in all the world, as she:
Some ladies humble are, and some are wise;*

Some chast, some kind, some fair to please the eyes;
 All vertues do in her like stars appear,
 And make a glorious constellation there.

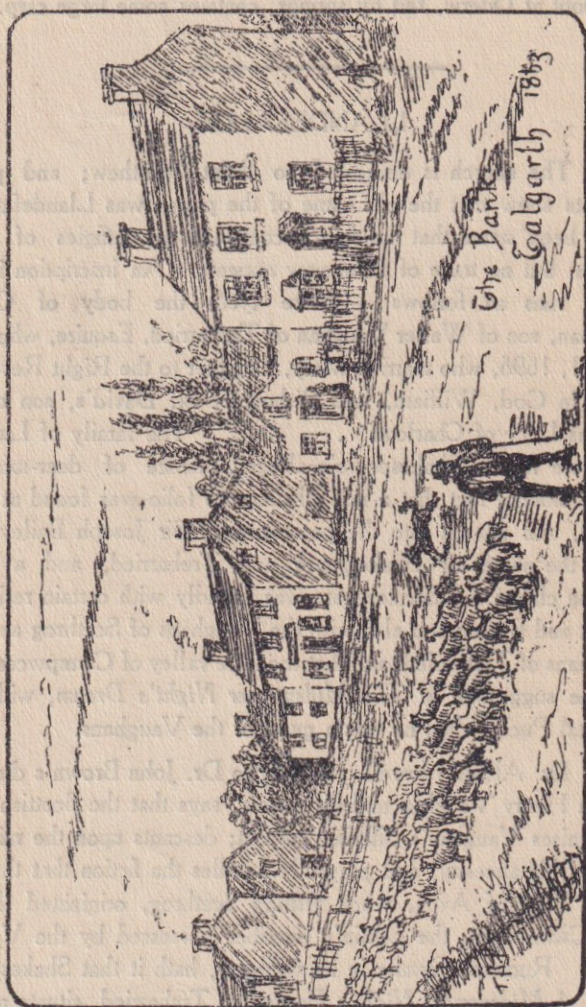
The pool at Dderw, fed by springs, contains some large carp.

LLANDEFALLE.

The church is dedicated to Saint Matthew; and parish accounts show that the old name of the parish was Llandefathew. It has been stated that the church contained the effigies of three bishops, but no trace of them now appears. An inscription in the church runs as follows:—"Here lyeth the body of Gwinn Vaughan, son of Walter Vaughan of Trebarried, Esquire, who died Oct. 21, 1696, who married Mary, daughter to the Right Reverend father in God, William, lord Bishop of St. David's, son of Sir Thomas Lucy of Charlcott" The family of Lucy of Charlcote recalls Shakespeare's alleged offence of deer-stealing. The additional fact that a rare Shakespere folio was found at Trebarried, and passed into the possession of Sir Joseph Bailey, has linked the names of Shakespeare and Trebarried, and a local tradition claims that Shakespeare was friendly with certain residents of Usk and Brecon and also with the Vaughans of Scethrog and the Vaughans of Trebarried, and that the little valley of Cwmpwcca gave him the suggestion of *The Midsummer Night's Dream*, with the immortal Puck, when he was a guest of the Vaughans.

Dr. Alfred Howell, referring to Dr. John Brown's dissertation on Henry Vaughan and his poems, says that the Scottish Elia "recognises Vaughan's Silurian descent; descants upon the military fame of his ancestry, and playfully handles the fiction that the immortal Bard of Avon, when visiting Scethrog, originated 'Puck' from Cwmpwcca, the goblin's coombe, possessed by the Vychan family. Rumour, Cymric in its wildness, hath it that Shakespeare wrote '*A Midsummer Night's Dream*' at Trebarried, situate a few miles from Scethrog. A very valuable copy was found in the Trebarried Library, and the pastoral scenes might fittingly have occurred in the vicinity of the old Manor House. The clamorous

owl still loves its wooded shades, and the giant oaks, now sadly thinned, might well have conjured up in a poet's mind such elfish scenes and moonlight revels. Athens is certainly a far cry, but a



poet's flight, with its roc-like freedom, is not cramped by time or space. Mediaeval mythology presents prior claims; but, granting that pretty conceit, it would be gratifying to think that Breconshire

gave literary birth to the liveliest little sprite that lives in fiction. With Elia's grace and lively fancy, Brown revels in the possibilities of Pwcca, and the humour of his fancies breathes reverence rather than idle levity."

The village has a milestone inscribed 169 miles to London, a reminder of the days when that road was on the route of the huge herds of black cattle and white cattle travelling to the eastward from Cardiganshire and Carmarthenshire as far as London. These cattle were shod with half-moon iron shoes to protect the hoof. The writer has met a smith who "rested and shod" these herds. The Wye was crossed at Cavan-Twm-bach, near Erwood (Y Rhyd—the ford). Trebois and Pentresollers recall the Norman families of Bois and Sollers. There is still a Coed Boze on Trebarried farm. The Misses Harley of Trebarried, related to Lord Oxford, and to the Harleys of Brampton Bryan, were the donors of the almshouses at Hay. At Llanerchcoedlan a sulphurous spring rises in a pretty valley. A local place-name Bryn-tair-mil (hill of the three thousand) suggests an ancient battlefield: but no fort or earthwork is visible. A small British camp is indicated on a field called Cae-gaer on Pwllcwrw farm; but the word 'gaer' is usually applied to Roman camps only. A small copper mine near Maesyberllan Chapel was worked within the memory of people recently living.

LLANVILLO.

Llanvillo has a church dedicated to Saint Bilo, a daughter of King Brychan. It was formerly thought that the saint was Millburgha, a daughter of Merewald of Leominster, King of Mercia, who died as Abbess of Much Wenlock.

The parish, which is associated with that of Llandefaelog-Trergraig, contains the remains of a British camp on Alltfilo, and of a Roman camp at the Hillis farm. Although Caer Caradog, near Knighton, is generally regarded as the scene of the decisive battle between Caradog and the Roman commander, Ostorius, there are some who consider this neighbourhood as the probable

area of the conflict. The assumption in this case is that Ostorius advanced from Caerleon, leaving camps at Usk, Abergavenny and Cwmdy, and that Caradog held the heights of Alltffilo, Allt-yr-Esgair and Pencrug. The armies met near Scethrog, when a great fight took place in the Bloody Valley, Cwmgwaedlyd. At Scethrog was found the stone inscribed VICTORINUS. Ostorius, forced to cross the Usk, advanced successfully, and occupied the site of the future Brecon (Bannium), while Caradog retreated towards Alltffilo, where he was soon confronted with the Hillis camp. A recent writer, in the Woolhope papers, says :—
 "Having gained information, most probably by terrible pressure, of the route taken by Caradog, Ostorius makes a move for Alltffilo. The British and Roman camps at this place are well worth a visit, for here you will find that both armies met face to face with each other. The Roman camp on the Hillis farm is within a stone's throw of the British camp. While looking at the position of this Roman camp in such close quarters to the British camp, it might well be termed an impudent camp."

LLANELIEU.

Llanelieu, once the site of a hermitage, has a church dedicated to Saint Ellyw, a descendant of King Brychan. It is situated on the Black Mountains above Talgarth near the 1000ft. contour. The church possesses an interesting rood screen, and the churchyard a kind of pillory, with a yew-tree fastening. There are in this parish two large moorlands, Rhosfach and Rhosfawr, the former having been used formerly for the annual camp training of the Volunteers. Llanelieu Court farm appears to have been a monastic house, and a Latin inscription still remains in the yard. In this parish the Ffostill neolithic grave-mounds, now declared to be a national monument under Government protection, are situated.

LLANGASTY.

The church, dedicated to Saint Gastyn, is picturesquely situated near the lake side. On Allt-yr-Esgair is an ancient camp, which commands a fine view in all directions. This camp was doubtless a British one, afterwards occupied by the Romans, whose road, the Via Julia Montana, ran between it and the Usk. From Treberfydd in this parish went four sons of one family, the Messrs. Raikes, and won military distinction in the Great War.

LLANSANTFFRAED.

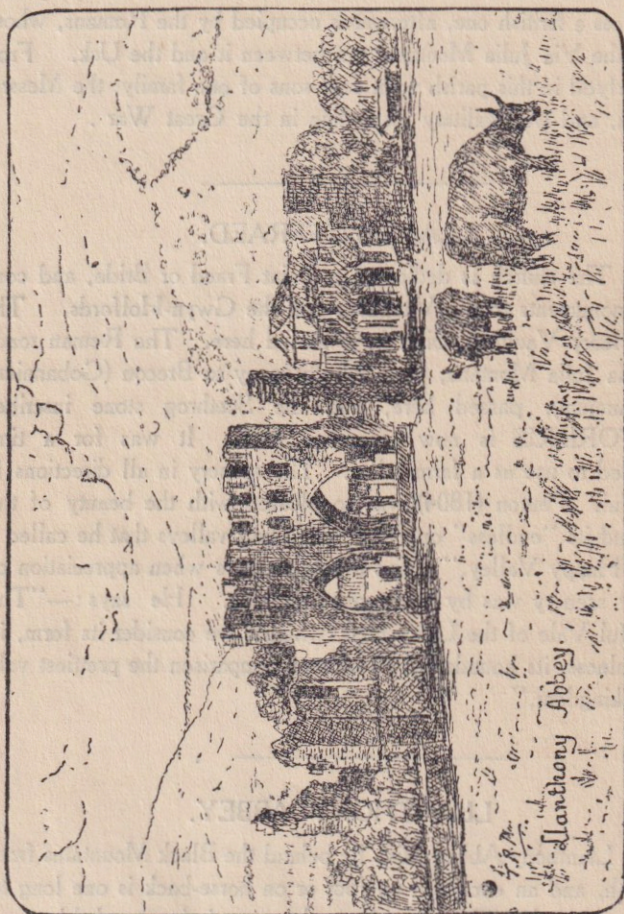
The church is dedicated to Saint Fraed or Bride, and contains monuments to the Vaughans and the Gwyn-Holfords. The poet Henry Vaughan, Silurist, is buried here. The Roman road, the Via Julia Montana, from Abergavenny to Brecon (Gobannium to Bannium), passed here, and the Scethrog stone inscribed VICTORINUS is now preserved here. It was for a time degraded to use as a farm roller. The scenery in all directions is beautiful. Fenton (1804) was so pleased with the beauty of the Usk and its "endless" openings with small valleys that he called it "The Happy Valley," a fine tribute in days when appreciation of country scenery was by no means common. He says:—"The beautiful Vale of the Usk which, whether we consider its form, its cheerfulness, its boundaries, is without comparison the prettiest vale in the kingdom."

LLANTHONY ABBEY.

Llanthony Abbey ruins lie behind the Black Mountains from Talgarth, and an excursion on foot or on horse-back is one long to be remembered. The view from the summit is remarkably fine, and the journey down the Honddu, or Ewyas Lacy Vale, to the abbey ruins (now a hotel), is easy and pleasant. The distance is deceptive, and even a good pedestrian may feel the effect of the return journey on the same day. On the way down the valley, the

tourist passes Father Ignatius's newer monastery, with the statue of the Virgin, near the old Capel-y-flyn, or chapel of the boundary.

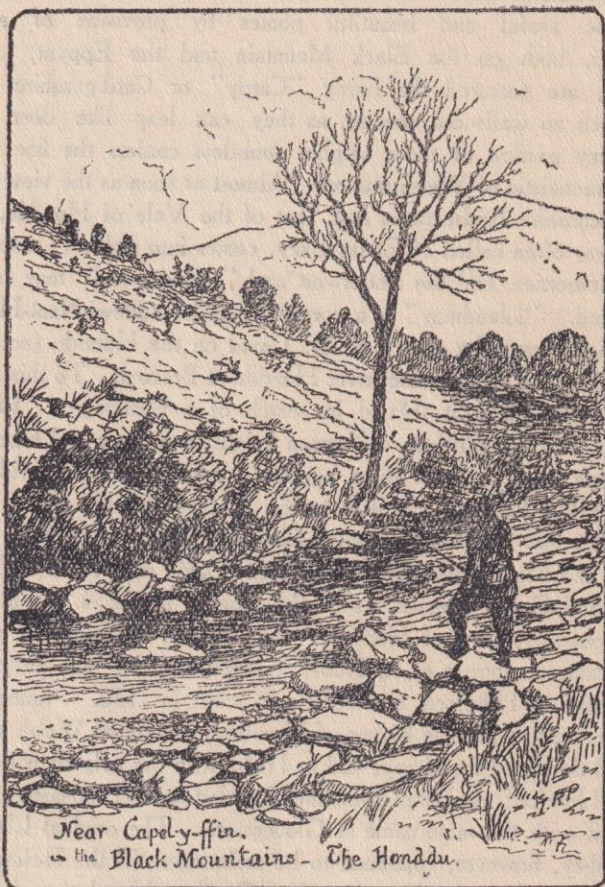
Llanthony Abbey can be reached from Talgarth, via Abergavenny, or Crickhowell, by cycle or motor, or by pony over the



Black Mountains by way of the Rhiw Cwnstab or Constable's Path. The latter is by far the more interesting route, as from the summit the view on a clear day is extensive, the whole country below, with its chequer-work of fields, red or purple ploughed land, meadows

green or yellow with buttercups, looking like a rich mantle "wove in far Cathay." Formerly it was not unusual to meet a herd of the splendid Welsh ponies, innocent of shoes, which would pass with thundering hoof and then wheel round to gaze at the intruders. Associations have been recently formed to restore the quality of these useful and beautiful ponies by provision of suitable sires, both on the Black Mountain and the Eppynt. Here, too, are pastured the hardy "Cardy" or Cardiganshire sheep, which no walls can contain, as they can leap like deer. The thymy pasture of these heights doubtless confers the fine flavour characteristic of Welsh mutton. Almost as soon as the view of the Breconshire landscape is lost, that of the Vale of Honddu, or as it was often called of Ewias Lacy, comes into sight. Cranberries, whimberries, and the butterwort and "cotton weed" may here be found. "Llanthony" is a corruption of Llanddewi-Nant-Honddu, which means the church of St. David on the Honddu (not to be confounded with another river Honddu at Brecon). To this part of the vale came St. David in search of a hermitage. He was followed by William, a Norman knight, a retainer and kinsman of Hugh de Lacy. William became a recluse of St. David's cell in 1100; Ernisius, chaplain to the Empress Maud, joined him in 1103, and the two founded a Cistercian abbey in 1108. Henry II. and Maud visited the shrine of St. David in 1173, and Edward I. and Queen Eleanor visited the abbey in 1284. Walter de Gloucester, Earl of Hereford and captain of Henry's guards, became an inmate of it; Robert de Betun, who was afterwards Bishop of Hereford, entered it as a monk in 1130. Immediately after he had become Bishop of Hereford, a party of Welsh assailed and desolated the abbey; and in 1136, with the help of Milo, Earl of Hereford, de Betun (Bethune) founded another monastery in lieu of it with the same name at Gloucester. The original Llanthony Abbey, however, continued to be maintained till the Reformation; and it numbered among its priors Geoffrey Henelow, afterwards Bishop of St. David's, and Henry Dean, afterwards Archbishop of Canterbury. The property passed through a number of hands after the Reformation, among the owners being Walter Savage Landor, the poet. His experiences at Llanthony are somewhat fully set forth in the *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, and in his life by

Mr. Sidney Colvin. He quarrelled with his Welsh neighbours and employes, and introduced French sailors with their families to take their place, but the experiment was a hopeless failure. Those who remember the accounts of the eccentric and brilliant Landor in Italy



will not be too ready to listen to his disparagement of the Ewias Lacy peasantry. He had commenced the foundations of a new residence on the hillside above the abbey.

The monks appear to have had a large fishpond by the riverside below the Abbey, and the brook is still well supplied with

trout. Visitors and residents at the Abbey hotel can obtain permission to fish. The church was cruciform, and had a central tower and two W. towers. The nave was 172 feet long and 48 wide; the transept was 96 feet long and 36 wide; the choir was 72 feet long and 28 wide; the Lady Chapel was 37 by 25; and the central tower 100 feet high was 24 by 24 feet. There was also an oratory 24 by 11 and 15½ high, and a chapter house 64 by 26½. The architecture is transition Norman, all of one date, 1108-1136, and the material is pure, silicious, greyish grit-stone. There remain the three lower stages of the W. towers, the lower stage of the W. front between them, the N. side of the nave, portions of the transept, and of the central tower, part of the choir, all the oratory, the ruined chapter house, the prior's house, and a fragment of the Earl of Hereford's tomb; and they form, in the aggregate, an imposing and picturesque mass. A portion of the ruins is now the Abbey Hotel, and the writer has pleasant memories of many a day spent in this lovely valley, for lovely it is in spite of all that poets and other visitors have said about its gloom and majesty. Drayton in his *Polyolbion* says:—

'Mongst Hatherill's lofty hills that with the clouds are crowned,
The valley Ewias lies immersed so deep and round,
As they below that see the mountains rise so high,
Might think the straggling herds were grazing in the sky,
Where in an aged cell with moss and ivy grown,
In which, not to this day, the sun hath ever shone,
The reverend British Saint, in zealous ages past
To contemplation lived, and did so truly fast,
As he did only drink what crystal Hodney yields,
And fed upon the leeks he gathered in the fields.

The efforts of Mr. Leycester Lyne ("Father Ignatius"), to restore the monastic life ended in failure, in spite of his wonderful oratory and enthusiasm. The times were out of joint and the good Father was as one who spoke a forgotten language; the movement died with him. Those who had most to do with him always spoke of him with kindliness, if not with reverence.

CASTELL DINAS.

Leland (1563-9) says :—Dinas Castel standith a good mile from Blan Lleveni upon a topp of a notable hille. It is now ruinus almost to the hard ground. Ther be manifest tokins of iii wardes waullid abowt. And therby was sumtime iii parkes, and a forest. The parkes be down, but yet good plenty is ther of redde deere. Then tenantes of Dinas hold of the Walsch tenor. It is set by like one of the hilles caullid Chathedrates. The people about Dinas did burne Dinas Castel that Oene Glindour should not kepe it for his forieres. (4).

The Forest of Talgarth is that part of the parish beyond Penygennfordd, the whole upper part of the Rhiangoll valley. The New Road runs down that valley with a fine gradient, but in olden days the road from Talgarth towards Abergavenny appears to have run from Dinas or the Das down the Grwyne valley to Pont-yr-Esgob, the Bishop's bridge, named in honour of Archbishop Baldwin, who journeyed this way with Giraldus when preaching the Crusade. Hoare says of this journey :—It appears that from Landeu he took the road to Talgarth, a small village a little to the south east of the road leading from Brecknock to Hay; from whence, climbing up a steep ascent, now called Rhiw Cwnstabl, or the Constable's Ascent, he crossed the Black Mountains of Llanellieu to the source of the Gronwy-fawr river. . . . From thence a rugged and uneven track descends suddenly into a narrow glen, formed by the torrent of the Gronwy, between steep, impending mountains; bleak and barren for the first three or four miles, but afterwards wooded to the very margin of the stream. A high ledge of grassy hills on the left hand, of which the principal is called the Bal, or Y Fal, divides this formidable pass (the *malus passus* of Giraldus) from the vale of Ewyas, in which stands the noble monastery of Llanthoni, encircled by its mountains. The road at length emerging from the deep recess of Coed Gronwy or Cwm Gronwy, crosses the river at a place called Pont Escob. . . . This formidable defile is at least nine miles in length. (9). It happened . . . that Richard de Clare, a nobleman of high birth, and lord of Cardiganshire, passed this way on his journey from England into Wales, accompanied by Brian de Wallingford, lord of this province, and many men at arms. At the passage of Coed Grono, and at the entrance to the wood, he dismissed him and his attendants, though much against their will, and proceeded on his journey unarmed; from too great

a presumption of security, preceded only by a minstrel and a singer, one accompanying the other on the fiddle. The Welsh awaiting his arrival, with Iorwerth, brother of Morgan of Caerleon, at their head, and others of his family, rushed upon him unawares from the thickets, and killed him and many of his followers. (9). In commemoration of this, the wood received the name of Coed Dial, the Wood of Vengeance.

TALGARTH.

"In the English Talegart," says Leland in 1563, "is no notable building, but a little prison by Talegarth chirch in the town, and Mr. William Vehan's, Esquiers place, caullid Porthamel, *i.e.*, Porta Copiæ, half a mile from Talegarth chirch in the valley. The howse hath a fair gate, and a strong waul embatelid."

Talgarth means, says Thomas Rees, literally the front of the hill, and the name is in this instance derived from the situation of this place, at one of the ends of the Black Mountains, which stretch into Herefordshire. The town is a borough by prescription; but its privileges have disappeared. The parish church is a substantial edifice, not enriched by any remarkable monuments, ancient or modern; it has a tower (containing six bells) which forms a conspicuous object from most parts of the surrounding country. The small tower or turret, mentioned by Leland, still remains, and probably was, as he states, designed merely for a prison.

Thus other writers followed Leland's lead, and the tower was spoken of as a prison only, and none of the chroniclers suspected that it was a peel or small border castle, the sign of a much contested place. Yet the building was formerly embattled, like the church tower and that of Porthamel, and contained lancet windows for defence by archers in its very thick walls. There are yet indications outside, near its modern roof, of machicolations or "corbelled projections, with apertures between, down which stones could be thrown or molten lead poured on the assailants." These projections were usually situated above doorways; and it is probable that the present doorways and windows are modern, designed to fit the building for habitation, and more recently for trading purposes.

The site of the peel tower near the brook suggests that water was anciently used to increase its security by means of a moat.

The Tower at Talgarth is, according to Mr. G. T. Clark, undoubtedly an old keep or Peel tower. These Peel (or Pele) towers were in general square or rectangular, and depended for their security greatly upon their site, and they formed the nucleus for the village or city. Clark says:—On the Honddu above Brecknock was Castell Madoc, probably a Welsh fortress, and on the Llyfni between Brecknock and Hereford the Peel of Talgarth and the very remarkable cylindrical tower of Bronllys. . . . He also quotes from a friend's writings—The smallest pele-tower, where the pettiest squire or parson sought shelter for himself in the upper stage, and for his cows in the lower. . . . The pele-towers of the Borderland, like the endless small square towers of Ireland, are essentially castles.

From the great keep of Newcastle . . . to the smallest pele-tower which survives as a small part of a modern house, the idea which runs through all is exactly the same."

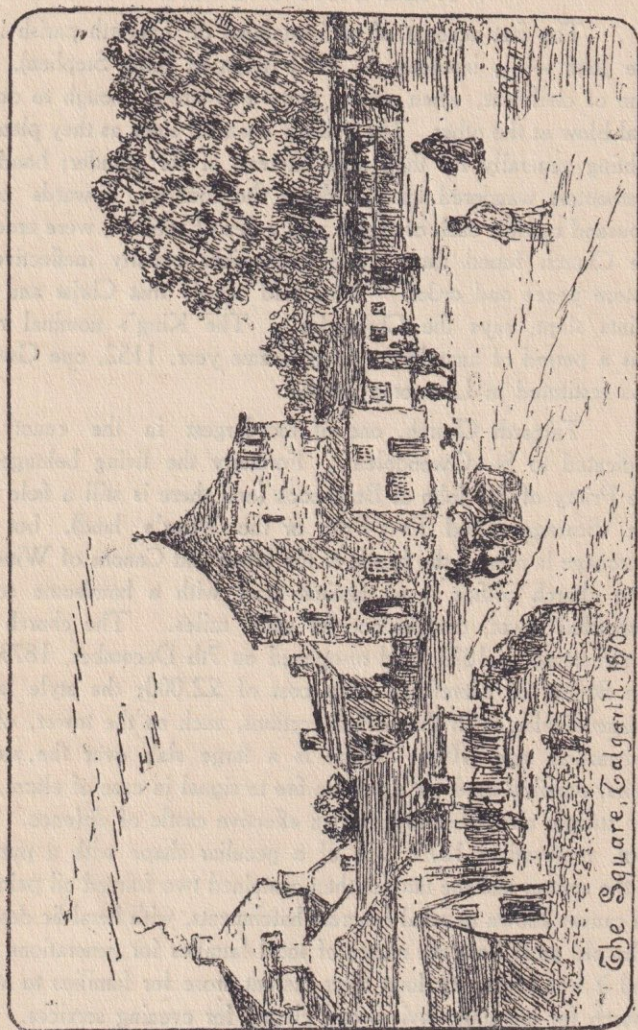
Clark, dealing with the Scottish border castles, a goodly array of castles of the first and second class which he names, says:—The continued incursions of the Scots were fatal to the English fortresses, as were those of the English to the Scotch, and thus many on both sides of the border were again and again burned and levelled, until they were either not rebuilt, or only represented by peel towers and castellets, which again were destroyed, so of very many castles the names only are preserved.

The numerous peels along the border, says Isaac Taylor, are an evidence of the insecurity arising from border warfare in times when every man's house was, in a literal sense, his castle also.

The tower was possibly erected or restored in the reign of Henry IV., when Tretower was refortified.

An old quatrain suggests the unhappy conditions of life during the border warfare (1135):—

"Brecknock is full of treason, and there is war in Ystrad Towy;
In Ewias is found hatred and starvation.
In Glynbwch are mangling and sharp words;
In Talgarth robbery and shame, bribery and lawyers."

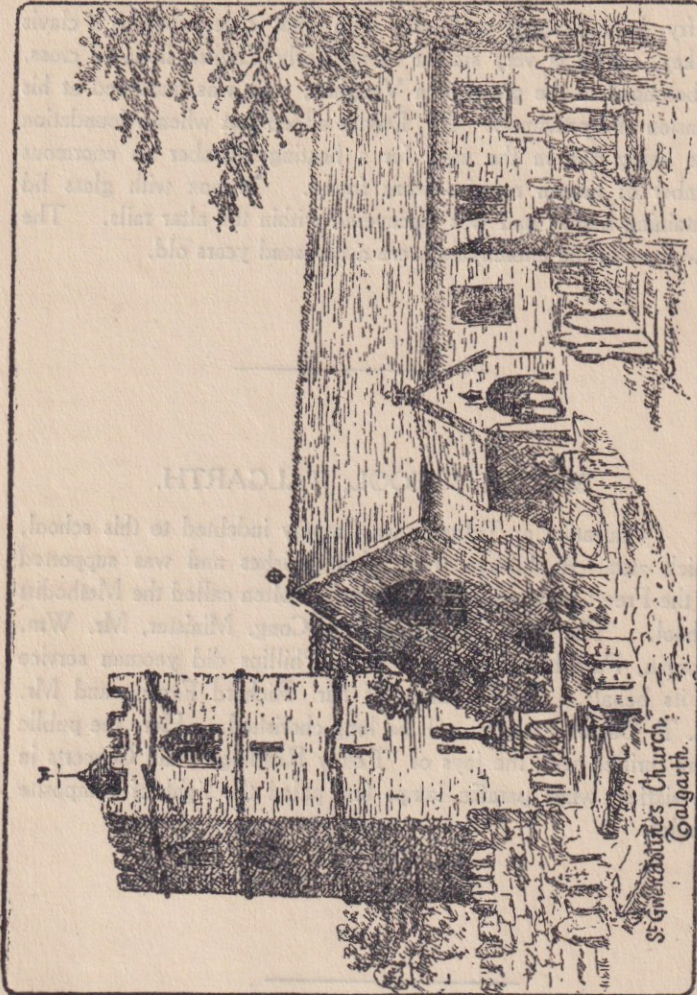


TALGARTH CHURCH.

The first account of an incumbent of Talgarth parish is of one John —, instituted in 1152 (reign of King Stephen), at a time of civil war, when neither party was strong enough to deal a final blow at the other. The nobility changed sides as they pleased, fighting generally for their own interests or for plunder; bands of freebooters wandered up and down the country; upwards of a thousand castles, each of which was a den of robbers, were erected; the Church found threats and persuasions equally ineffective to restore peace and order. Men said openly that Christ and His Saints slept, says the Chronicler. The King's nominal reign was a period of anarchy. In the same year, 1152, one Gwilym was instituted in Llangorse parish.

Talgarth Church, one of the largest in the county, is dedicated to St. Gwendolen. Formerly the living belonged to the Priory of St. John at Brecknock (and there is still a field near the Vicarage called Tir-y-Prior or the Prior's land), but the patronage is now in the hands of the Dean and Canons of Windsor. The church edifice is an ancient one, with a handsome square embattled tower, conspicuous for many miles. The church was last restored in 1873 (and re-opened on 7th December, 1873, by the Bishop of Hereford), at a cost of £2,000; the style is the Perpendicular, with the earlier portions, such as the tower, of the Edwardian age (10). There is a large slab over the steeple stairs, possibly used for a beacon fire to signal in case of alarm, and the steeple altogether suggests an effective castle of defence. The roof, removed in 1873, was of a peculiar shape with a pyramid in the centre, and the interior then contained two framed oil paintings on canvas known as regal funereal hatchments, with heraldic designs. The old pews bore the names of local families for generations past, and it was customary long after dissent arose for families to attend church for morning services and chapel for evening services. The sun dial in the churchyard is believed to be a portion of the parish cross, destroyed in the Civil War period. In the porch of the church is a stone holy water basin in good condition, on the right hand side of the door, supposed to be 600 to 700 years old.

Explaining the features of Talgarth Church to the Woolhope Club, the Vicar, the Rev. Mr. Davies, pointed out the transept of an earlier church adjoining the edifice. It would hold 200

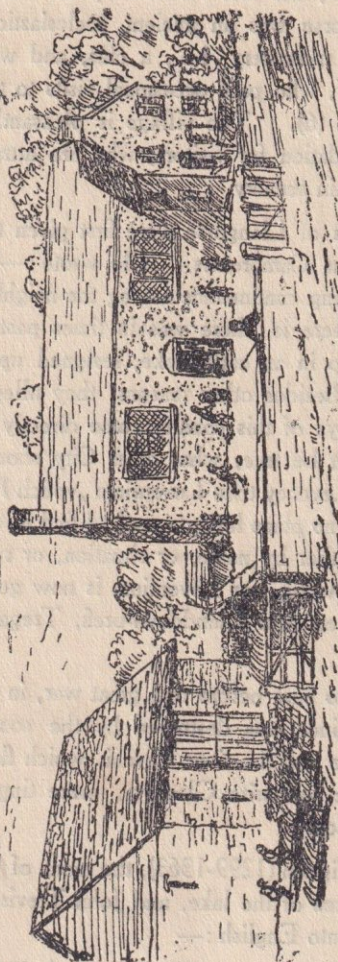


people, and until the time of the last restoration was used as a National school, and now used as a Sunday School and vestry. The church is dedicated to Saint Gwendolen, one of Brychan's

descendants, who was murdered by the Saxons. He drew attention to a stone coffin lid, ten inches thick, and elaborately carved on the face with a floriated baton or wand, thought by some to indicate an ecclesiastical abbeß. Another stone lid, fastened under the belfry, is handsomely sculptured with what is described as a clavis or key, which is very similar to an Early English floriated cross. It belonged to the grave of a Vaughan, who was murdered at his mansion of Porthamel. Mr. Davies added that when a foundation was being dug in the nave for a heating chamber an enormous number of human remains were found. A box with glass lid containing human hair was discovered within the altar rails. The yew trees in the churchyard were a thousand years old.

BRITISH SCHOOL, TALGARTH.

Education at Talgarth was largely indebted to this school, which attracted children from other parishes and was supported by the Free Churches. It was therefore often called the Methodist School. The Rev. Thomas Evans, Cong. Minister, Mr. Wm. Morgan, Parcybrain, and Mr. John Phillips did yeoman service on its behalf. The memory of Mr. Richard Farrow and Mr. W. T. Davies, masters, will be long cherished. Here the public were thrilled with the joys of "Penny Readings" and Concerts in the sixties, when paraffin lamps first paled the light of composite candles.



Old Tithe-barn & British School Galgath. 1870.

LLANGORSE.

Llangorse has one of the few churches which preserve the memory of Paulinus, the first Archbishop of York, who died in 664 A.D. Llangorse was an ancient ecclesiastical centre; it is expressly termed a monastery, i.e., a clâs, and was held by the Bishops of Llandaff, who paid occasional visits to the reedy shores of Llyn Safaddon. (6). The village is pleasantly situated, and has good accommodation for visitors, who are attracted chiefly by the lake and mountain scenery.

The legends of Llangorse were first given to the world by the pen of Giraldus Cambrensis. He wrote :—"It has been a current speech of long continuance among the neighbours thereabout that where the Meere is, there was in times past a City, which being swallowed up in an earthquake, resigned up the place unto the waters. And besides other reasons, they allege this for one, that all the highways of this country come directly hither on every side. Which, if it be true, what other City should a man think stood by the river Leveney than Loventium, which Ptolomee placeth in this tract; and in no place hitherto could I find it, albeit I searched diligently for it, either by name, or situation, or ruins remaining." But Giraldus was wrong, for Loventium is now generally believed to have been located near Llanddewi-brefi, Tregaron. He also tells us that—

it came to pass before that great war, in which nearly all this province was destroyed by the sons of Jestin, the large lake and the river Leveni, which flows from it into the Wye, opposite Glasbryr, were tinged with a deep green colour.

Ranulph Higden (1299-1363), the monk of Chester, summed up in Latin the fame of the lake, and John Trevisa (1387) translated the passage into English :—

ad Brecknoc est vivarium
Satis abundans piscium
Saepe coloris varii
Coman gerens pommarii
Structuras aedificii

There is a pole in Breighenok
There ynne of fische is many a flok
Oft he chaungeth his hewe on cop
And bereth aboue a gardyn crop
Ofte tyme how it be

Saepe videbis inibi	Schap of hous there thou schalt see
Sub lacu cum sit gelidus	When the pole is frore hit is wonder
Mirus auditur sonitus	Of the noise that there is under
Si terrae princeps venerit	Gif the prince of the londe hote
Aves cantare jusserit	Briddes singeth with mery note
Statim compromunt nodulos	As mery as they kan
Nil concinunt nil caeterus.	And singeth for noon other man.

Leland (1563-9), wrote of it :—The lake caullid in Walche Llin Sevathan. Here one thing is to be noted, that after a great reyne Lleveny cummeth owt of the montaynes with such a rage that he bringeth the color of the dark red sand with him, and ys sene by the color where he violently passeth thorough the mere. Thens Lleveny runneth into Wy about Glasbyri, a iii myles from Hay, the which is in the right way betwixt Hereford and Breknoc. In the lake be numbers of fish caulled in Walsche cangans (? grayling, W., glasgangen), and great store of pykes, whereof many cum into Wy river. The Lake of Breknoc ons frozen over than in a thaue breking, maketh mervelus noise per totam viciniam. Llin Sevathan is a iiij myles by the South est from Breckenok. It is in a bredth a mile and a ii miles in length, and where as it is deepest a xiii fadom. On the one side wel nere the ripe is a kind of weedes that goith along the Llin, wherein the spaune doth sucour, and also the great fische. At great windes the water doth surge ther mervelusly. Lleveny cummeth thorowgh this lake, no great river, and after a great raine is parfightly seene of a redde color in the midst of the lake. . . . It berith as the principale fische a great number of bremes, and they appeyre in May in mightie sculles, so that sumtime they breke the large nettes; and ons frayed appereth not in the bryme of the water that yere agayne. It berith also a good pikes, and perches in great numbers. Trowts also, and chevins (chub) by cumming in of Lleveny. Menne fische ther uniligneis and they be very narrow. . . . Part as sum say is in the Walsche Talegarth, and part in Breknok lordship, the whiche be divided by Lleveny.

Camden, writing in 1722, says :—

Two miles to the east of Brecknock, is a large lake, which the Britains call Llyn Savedhan, and Llyn Savadhan, i.e., a Stand-

ing Lake: Giraldus calls it Clamosum, from the terrible noise it makes, like a clap of thunder, upon the breaking of ice. It is . . . well stored with otters, and also with perch, tench and eel, which the fishermen take in their coracles. . . . Marianus seems to call this place Bricenanmere; who tells us that Edelfleda, the Mercian Lady, entered the Land of the Britains anno 913, in order to reduce a Castle at Bricenanmere; and that she took the Queen of the Britains prisoner.

With regard to the drowned city, Camden writes at length, and concludes—All which I suspect as fabulous, and not to be otherwise regarded.

THE SUBMERGED CITY.

A legend of Llyn Safaddan, by Ysgafell, based on Cynfig of the Iolo MSS. :—

Where mountain heights surround the vale,
 And humbler hills their summits rear
 To ornament the spreading dale,
 Amid a marish dark and drear,
 Calm as the glow of summer skies,
 The Lake of old Brecheiniog lies.

Tradition tells, in days of yore,
 (Dates suit not this mysterious tale),
 Where the lake spreads its watery store,
 A village smiled amid the vale,
 And there its lovely Lady dwelt,
 To whom an humble suitor knelt.

A wealthy dower the Maiden owned,
 Yet coveting augmented store,
 The Suitor's poverty she scorned,
 And bade him see her face no more;
 His melancholy way he went,
 On thoughts of love and wealth intent.

When in a solitary place
 A travelling merchant crossed his way,
 A man of wealth—with rapid pace
 The Suitor fell upon his prey;

Beneath his sword the Merchant dies,
The murderer seizes on the prize,

Prepares a grave with fearful haste,
And hides his hapless victim there;
Then at his Lady's feet he cast
His treasure, and preferred his prayer.
Surprised she questions; thrilled with fear
The horrid secret greets her ear.

"Hence, guilty youth," she trembling cries,
"Why should I join my lot with thine?
Vengeance to smite the murderer flies;
Oh, may far other fate be mine!
Receive thy sentence at his tomb,
Nor bid thy loved one share thy doom."

He went, the moon her radiance veiled
Beneath a cloud of sombre hue;
The screech-owl's note his ear assailed,
As near the lonely copse he drew,
Sepulchral tones amid the wood,
Asked, "Is there vengeance for this blood?"

"There is," a hollow voice replied,
"A sure, though distant curse shall come;
Nine generations multiplied
The Murderer's race shall share his doom."
Well pleased, the Murderer hastes away,
Nor fears the long protracted day.

Nor does the Lady now refuse
To join with his her future lot;
Sin's punishment escaped her views;
The guilt of sin she dreaded not;
Theirs, ere that tardy vengeance fall,
Must be the common lot of all.

They lived their offspring's race to see
With rapid increase spread around,

Survived that hour of destiny

When time the threatened period found;
Yet on the Murderer's hoary head
No storm of wrath its lightning shed.

The festive board, its song of mirth,
Their safety and their joy declare;
Terrific tremblings rend the earth,

Lo! vengeance, ruin and despair!
And where the Murderer's turrets rose,
The Lake is spread and Llynfi flows.

ON LLANGORSE AND ITS FOLK-LORE.

Mr. G. R. Thomas, B.Sc., writes:—

A young man of humble birth one day sees the lovely lady of Llyn Safaddan. He immediately falls a slave to her charms; but his poverty proves an effectual bar to her hand. To win her, however, he is determined; so he plans the murder of a rich man; he goes to his lady-love with his ill-gained wealth, and while she condones his crime she again rejects his suit on the score that the ghost of his victim is not appeased. The ghost kept saying, "Vengeance will come," and the murderer plucking up courage, asked, "When will it come?" "In the lifetime of thy grandsons, great grandsons, ascensors and their children," was the answer. Any qualms of conscience that the lady had were now stifled, and she replied, "There is no need for us to fear, we shall be under the mould long before the curse comes." Rid of its accidentals, we find two central facts in the legend: (1) that early man would brook no barrier to a woman's hand, (2) the far-off possibility of revenge.

In the legend we have an instance of unadulterated savagery—the brutal murder of a harmless victim. We must not place undue stress on the marriage in the legend as connoting a degree of civilisation. Among savages there is no marriage as we understand it, and, although in the legend the suitor obtained his lady-love, the union was more territorial than personal. There is, however, a distinct trace in the legend of patriarchal society. Such a society would require the existence of a group presided over and controlled by the well-night despotic authority of a male ancestor.

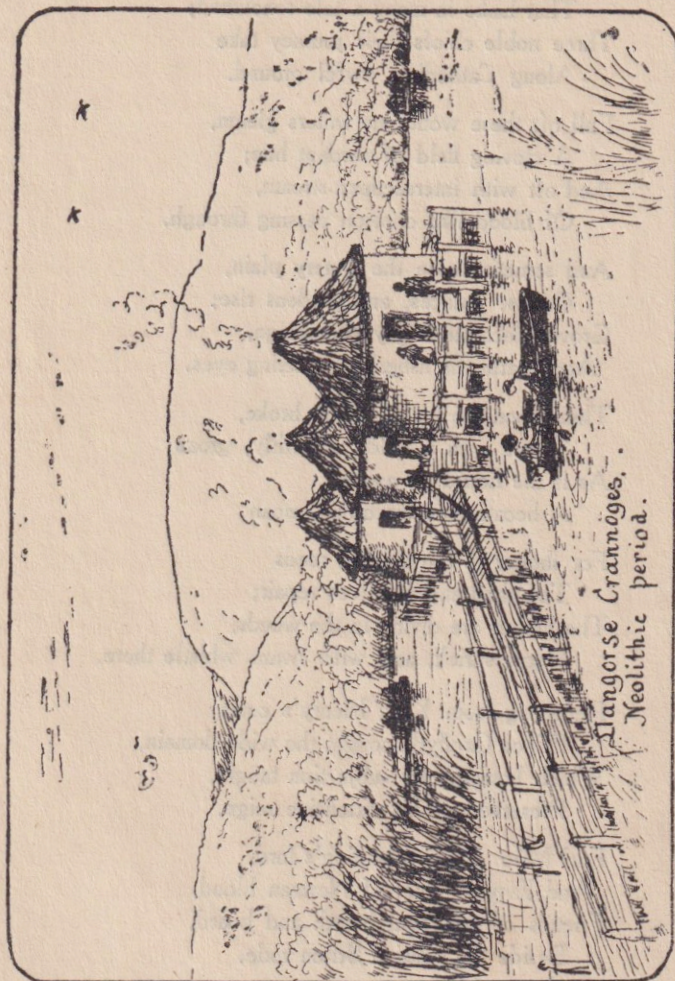
To substantiate this let us further proceed with the legend. After the murder the suitor and his lady felt safe. They had sons and daughters, who in turn had children. Thus did the family increase until the sixth generation. By this time the original pair were very old, and they had flourished like the green bay-tree. So they convened their descendants and prepared a great feast to all the family, and made merry with them before they departed. Here we have the tribal society with male ancestors exercising unlimited control. Now in the crannog of Llangorse Lake bone fragments and teeth and other relics have been found. Professor Rolleston found the bones to be those of the wild boar, red deer, pig, horse, etc. This supports the evidence of the patriarchal society, and the communal character of the society is hinted at in the legend. It was the domestication of animals that converted the savage pack into the patriarchal tribe. The definite assertion of revenge, though long deferred, strengthens the patriarchal suggestion. The first law-maker of Wales was Dyfnwal Moelmud. He established the relative measurements of Cymwd and Cantref, and his work was concerned with codifying existing customs rather than making laws. The part of the legend dealing with vengeance might be accretionary, but it is significant to note that in all tribal organisations there was an Avenger. Thus among the Scottish he was called a Troisech, among the Teutons a Heretock, and among the Welsh a Dialwr (or Avenger). The avenger is an early instance of "the specialisation of functions." In these deathless traditions then we find preserved remote facts of racial and national life, and by a systematic examination of folktale and personal and local legend the historian will be greatly enriched. Let us turn to another Llangorse legend, and see what it has in store for us. As far back as 1200 Giraldus, in his "Itinerary" says: "It has been an ancient tradition among the natives that where the lake is now was formerly a city which, being swallowed by a great earthquake, made a receptacle for the water."

Giraldus mentions as a proof of the legend that all the high roads in the country lead to the lake. The legend did not die with Giraldus, but has been handed down to the present day. Every child in Breconshire has heard of the "Old Woman of Llangors"

who emerged from the lake, and sat on the weather-cock above the protruding steeple. When a disobedient child sauntered to the water's edge contrary to its mother's commands, with a doleful cry the old woman would exclaim, "Come along my little child," and in the twinkling of an eye old woman and child, steeple and weather-cock, would disappear below the water. There are, of course, variants of the legend, but the central fact has persisted through the ages, that where the water now is there was once human habitation.

This fact has been emphasised in successive legends generation after generation. Now at Llangors we have the most interesting memorial of former times in the county. Boating near the island of Llangorse in the year 1867, the Revd. E. N. Dumbleton noticed a heap of stones which seemed to have been thrown into the water four or five feet deep. Subsequently a row of piles standing a few inches above the water was discovered. The island has now been shown to have been the site of the pile dwellings of an early race. The island itself was an artificial construction, upon which a platform was formed, and on this platform the huts or piles for the human occupants were made. A causeway connected the island to the shore. Remains of rude domestic pottery, and implements of the newer stone age have been unearthed from the island, as well as bones of domestic animals, all testifying to human occupation. The pile dwellings of Llangors are of great antiquity, and belong to the pre-metallic period. It is not our purpose to locate these pile dwellings in point of time, but to emphasise the fact that they belong to the prehistoric age. With the advance of more civilised men, used to superior weapons and implements, the pile dwellers would recede. Their memory would persist with the new settlers, and thus it is that, despite accretionary matter of the legends, the central fact of human occupation on the water has survived to this day. Thus we see that the science of folk-lore when properly studied is full of import to the historian, the archaeologist, and the anthropologist. It is the beacon light in the mist of early obscurity, and heralds the dawn of history. It has already co-operated with prehistoric archaeology in showing that our glorious civilisation has ever been one continual, long-drawn, upward process from a low form of savagery. It

shows how the undertone of love swelled through the great primeval world, and culminated when man's evolution was complete in the sacrifice of Calvary. And it has shown that underlying the



line of caste and social chains and differences of race and nationality we were all possessed of a common humanity striving sometimes blindly, often unconsciously, to achieve to higher things.

G. R. THOMAS.

A LEGEND OF LLYNSAFADDAN.

By old Brecheiniog's famous Lake—
 That Lake in many a tale renowned;
 Three noble chiefs their journey take
 Along Cathedin's awful ground.

Full oft these wondrous waters gleam,
 A moving field of verdant hue;
 And oft with intersections stream,
 Of blood like crimson passing through.

And sometimes on the watery plain,
 Courts, palaces, and gardens rise;
 Groves decorate a gay champaign,
 And charm the fisher's wondering eyes.

Then when the ice of winter broke,
 'Twas with a wild, unearthly, groan;
 As if the horrid jar awoke
 A hecatomb's discordant moan.

For shelter to the tangled reeds
 Ten thousand fugitives repair;
 The grebes are diving in the weeds,
 Hens shriek, and wild swans whistle there.

Returning from King Henry's court,
 Prince Gruffydd sought the wide domain,
 Which homage, by subjection taught,
 Preserved of his extensive reign.

Earl Milo, old Brecheiniog's lord,
 And Ewyas' chief of Norman blood,
 Friends of the royal hearth and board,
 Beside the pensive Briton rode.

And tauntingly Earl Milo smiled,
 And spoke, as near the brink they drew;
 And all the surface vast and wild,
 Serenely noble, lay in view.

"It is a legend of the Lake,
 That when the Lord of Wales shall say,
 Ye birds! your herald songs awake!
 These birds his bidding will obey."

"Then be it yours," the Welshman said,
 "Who hold dominion o'er the land,
 Lords of the castle and the blade,
 To issue forth the high command."

They paused, Earl Milo's thundering voice
 Which oft had moved the ranks of war,
 Now pealed a solitary noise,
 Whose echoes rang from shore to shore.

Then Payn-Fitz-John with angry speech
 Adjures the magic Lake in vain,
 While smiling retinues impeach
 In whispered words the Norman's reign.

Prince Gruffyd knew misfortune's place,
 Yet scorned the petty sneer of pride;
 Nor chose that his illustrious race
 His prosperous foeman should deride.

Dismounting, towards the east he kneels,
 As champions ere they meet the foe;
 His gesture silently reveals
 A heart in supplication low.

At length he rose, with solemn air,
 Then crossed his forehead and his breast,
 And looking upward thus in prayer,
 Aloud his father's God addressed:—

"O let thy providence and power
 The line of British sovereigns own,
 And local birds proclaim this hour
 The heir of Southern Cambria's throne."

He spoke, the smitten Lake grew bright,
 With flash of many a humid wing;
 In solemn notes that breathe delight,
 Obedient birds their anthem sing.

YSGAFELL.

—(After Giraldus Cambrensis ("De Barri"), born about 1147 A.D.).

LLANGORSE LAKE.

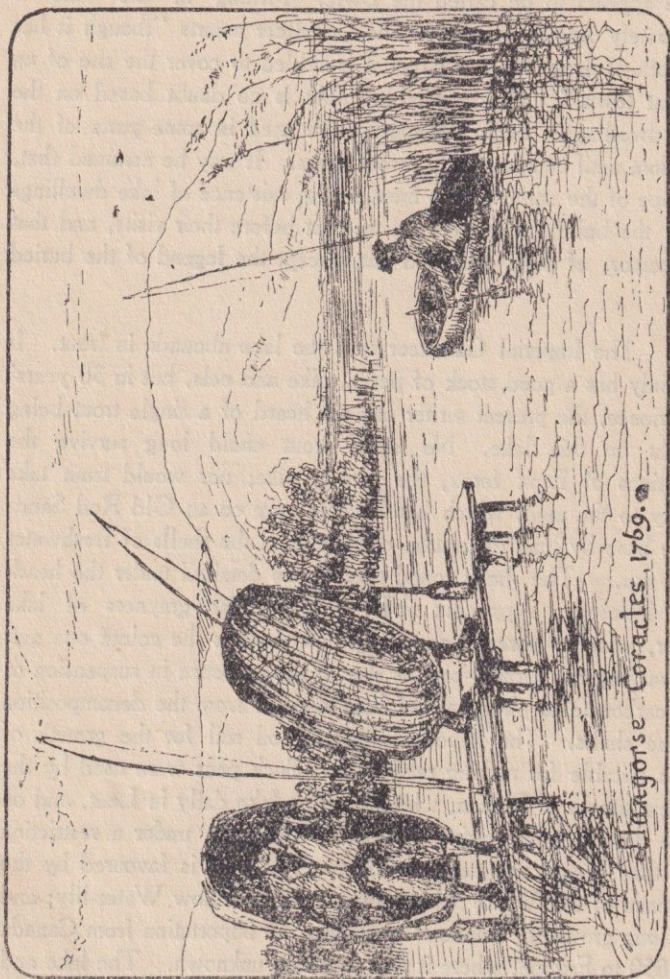
Russell and Price (1769) write :—

On the east side of the town of Brecknock is a lake called Brecknock Mere, which is about two miles over every way, wherein is such an amazing plenty of perch, tench, and eels, that it is generally said to be two-thirds water, and one-third fish. The method the inhabitants have of catching them is somewhat curious. For this purpose they make use of a small boat, called a coracle, which is nearly of an oval form, constructed of split sally-twigs, interwoven like baskets; the bottom is round, and the part next the water covered with a raw horse's hide. In length it is about five feet, and in breadth about three, and so light that the fisherman carries it to and from the lake on his back. One of these coracles holds one man, who when seated will row himself swiftly with one hand, whilst with the other he manages his net, angling rod, or other fishing tackle. This lake by the Welsh has been called Lynn Savedhan, but is now more commonly named Llan-gorsse-Pool.

The Imperial Gazetteer says :—

"Llangorse Lake is the largest natural lake in South Wales. It is $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles E.S.E. of Brecon, and about the same distance from Talgarth. The nearest railway station is Tallylyn. The lake covers nearly 1,800 acres, and is about two miles long, by one mile broad, and about five miles in circuit. Its scenery is described as beautiful, though gloomy. It abounds in perch, pike and large eels." The large eels are now known to be fish that have migrated from the deep sea, as elvers, and will return to the Atlantic bed after many years of absence to spawn and die. The lake is much frequented for fishing and wild-fowl shooting.

Upon an artificial island in Llangorse Lake traces of habitations raised on piles have been discovered, together with the bones of red deer, wild boar, and a species of cattle (*Bos Longi-*



frons). Some of the old piles on which the lake dwellings were erected were 50 years ago quite visible, but have apparently decayed since by exposure to air. They were about 3 inches in diameter. A small mound can sometimes be observed in the lake near the

opposite shore. The island, which is wholly artificial, was connected with the shore by a pathway of earth, stones and piles, with probably a drawbridge. The water between the island and the shore appears to be called the Bwlc. Fishing in the lake is fortunately free to visitors. The Gazetteer asserts "though it has a depth of from 12 to 45 feet it is fabled to cover the site of an ancient town." This venerable fable is no doubt based on the lake dwellings. Such crannoges were used in some parts of the kingdom until comparatively recent times. It may be assumed that, as none of the early writers mention the existence of lake dwellings here, the buildings had ceased to exist before their visits, and that all memory of them had died out, except the legend of the buried city.

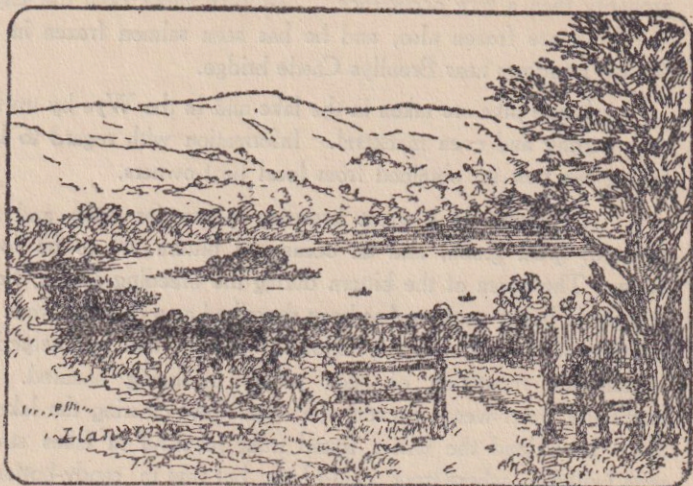
The Imperial Gazetteer says the lake abounds in trout. It certainly has a good stock of perch, pike and eels, but in 30 years' experience, the present writer has not heard of a single trout being caught in this lake. No small trout could long survive the attentions of *Esox ferox*, the greedy pike; nor would trout take kindly to the mud, which has become gray on an Old Red Sandstone base by long deposition of lime from the shells of freshwater shell-fish. [The shells found therein are detailed under the heading Mollusca. Appendix ii.] The peculiar grayness of lake water, which Andrew Lang aptly described as the colour one gets on washing out a paint-box, is due to the presence in suspension of this carbonate or phosphate of lime derived from the decomposition of the shells. The deposit forms a good soil for the growth of reeds suitable for making reed pens. Such pens were used by the ancient monks of Brecon, who fished the lake daily in Lent, and on three days a week during the rest of the year, under a restriction that they should use only one boat. The lake is favoured by the presence of the White Water-lily, and the Yellow Water-lily; and has long grown the *Elodea Canadensis*, an importation from Canada in 1850 to Europe, where it was formerly unknown. The lake and its borders contain many plants of interest, most of which will be found in the list of the Flora of Breconshire given herein. In hard winters the lake freezes over, and skaters come from all parts of the county; but such winters are now rare. The writer can recollect

very specific accounts in his youth of wagon-loads of corn being hauled across the lake in one of the winters of 1850-60; but it was probably then a rare occurrence. At such times both the Llynfi and Enig are frozen also, and he has seen salmon frozen in the flooded meadows near Bronllys Castle bridge.

Large pike are taken in the lake and in the Wye by trolling with herring and even mackerel. Information with regard to lake fishing can best be obtained from local boat-owners.

Llangorse is a great breeding place for coot; and the pochard, great grebe, and an occasional bittern are to be found there. The boom of the bittern during the breeding season, heard at night in boggy regions, has been described as a cross between the crowing of a cock and the bellow of a bull, and has helped to sustain the reputation of such places of being haunted. No doubt the water-weeds prevent the water-fowl clearing the lake of fish. In Ireland the writer found trout plentiful in lakes strewn with boulders, where trout could hide, but few in sandy-bottomed lakes, where the cormorant, or the grebe, could freely steal like submarines. It is interesting to watch such birds feed in clear water. They use their wings under water and rarely fail to catch a fish. The dabchick, and the moorhen also, despite its demure appearance, are sad poachers of small fish. Herons and otters are said to prefer eels. The otter may occasionally be seen at work in the Usk about sunset. He glides about with only his nose-end out of the water, and if he did not go up-stream, might be mistaken for a log of wood. The fish leap down-stream over his head, when he has shepherded them into a shallow. It will no doubt have been noticed that some writers have been far too liberal in their estimates of the dimensions and area of Llangorse lake. It will therefore be of interest to give the correct figures. The length along the centre of the lake from influx to efflux of the Llynfi is about $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles and 33 yards; the greatest width is about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile and 20 yards. The width at Llangasty landing stage is $\frac{1}{2}$ a mile; and the distance from the Llangorse stage to the Llangasty stage is five-eighths of a mile, or 1100 yards. The area is, in Llangorse parish, 145.514 acres; in Llangasty-Talylyn parish, 185.882 acres; and in Cathedine parish, 31.865 acres; making a total of 353.261 acres. The

surface of the lake on 15 November, 1887, was 501.9 feet above (Ordnance datum) sea level.



It is probable that even in historic times its area was greater than at present, the slow wearing down of the river bed at Trewalter, and the artificial help given to drainage of the Llynfi outflow having reduced its level and uncovered valuable land on its shores. There are still Commissioners of Sewers, whose duty it is to keep the artificial portion of the Llynfi in good order. Such Commissioners were first appointed by the Crown in 1427, and jurisdiction is preserved by modern Public Health Acts.

It is well-known that schemes have been considered from time to time to utilise the Llangorse plain, including the lake area, as a great catchment reservoir for the storage of water from the Llynfi valley, and even from valleys on the other side of the Usk, with a view to the increase of the London water supply. Increase of population, with demand for more pure water, may again revive such projects. Most people would certainly view the submergence of this area to the 600 feet level with mixed feelings. The Liverpool Corporation ordered pictures of the area to be submerged at Vyrnwy to be painted, and these pictures are not without a melancholy significance in respect of the lost homesteads and churches.

CWMDU.

A noteworthy road is the New Road from Talgarth to Crickhowel. It reaches Pengenffordd and the site of Castell Dinas, a pass in the Black Mountains, and descends by a perfect gradient. It was made for the transport of lime from Llangattock. After leaving the pass, Cwmdy is first reached, then Tretower and Crickhowel. Cwmdy is in the Black Forest, but to-day neither the valley nor the forest could fairly be called black, the great woods of the early days having long ago been cleared. Cwmdy is another Llanfihangel. It is on the Via Julia Montana, and there are vestiges of a Roman station at the Gaer, above the village. Roman coins, bricks and other relics have been found. The church contains a stone brought from the Roman station with an inscription, "Catachus hic jacit filius Teserhacus (or Tegernacus)," sometimes wrongly called Ogam. The Rector, the Rev. W. Arvon Davies, discovered in 1924 in a cairn on the mountains above, a Beaker with a handle, a unique find of ancient handiwork.

TRETOWER.

The castle was a seat of the Picards, lords of Ystradwy (Crickhowel), and was fortified in the time of Henry IV. But it was fortified before by Picard building in all likelihood the four-square stone keep, of which the lower courses still remain. Then followed the Turbervilles, who were here in authority until the reign of Henry III. (6).

SPAS OF CENTRAL WALES.

<i>Spa.</i>	<i>Medicinal Springs.</i>	<i>Above sea level.</i>
		<i>Feet.</i>
Builth Wells	Saline and Sulphur ...	419
Llandrindod Wells ...	Chalybeate	700
Llangammarch Wells ...	Barium & Calcium Chlorides	600
Llanwrtyd Wells	Saline	800
Llanerchchoedlan	Saline and Sulphur ...	520

A FEW PLACE-NAMES.

TALGARTH is generally translated as face-of-the-steep hill, garth being used in this sense in Penarth (Pengarth), Ceniarth and Garth. Talgarth as a place-name also occurs at a farm near Caerleon and a hall in North Wales. But garth and its congeners from Ireland to India means an enclosure, whether field, town or fort, as in gorth, gort, garry, gurteen, gardd, garth, yard, hortus, court, garden, garten, gratz, grade, grad, gorod, garh, etc. By the Vikings Rome and Byzantium were both called Micklegarth—great city.

LLAN is doubtless the Latin planum, a plain. Compare Spanish llanos, a prairie. The plain was probably the levelled spot in front of the shrine holding the saintly relics. "No relic, no church," was an old saying. When the shrine had been enclosed in the church, the word llan appears to have been transferred to the building, with the idea of enclosure, and in that sense appears also in berllan, orchard, and Penllanafel, apple orchard, etc.

PENYWORLOD is believed to be Pen-y-gwair-clawd, top-of-the-hay-field. Anwyl gives gwerlod as an obsolete word for a paddock, and werlod is still used in that sense. Gwerloddau is the plural form.

T.R.P.

APPENDIX I.

THE FIRST FLORA OF BRECONSHIRE.*(See also page 84).*

This is as complete a list of the Flowering Plants and Ferns of the county as it has been possible to make from the available records.

It is based, in its sequence of names, upon the 10th edition of the London Catalogue of British Plants (1908), and the numbers preceding the plant-names are taken from that work. Many changes in the names of British plants were introduced in the 10th edition, and it occasionally becomes difficult for a collector to recognise under the new name a plant he has been familiar with under another. The compilers recognised this difficulty in some cases by inserting the old name in brackets after the new. Other cases of this addition will be found in this list.

On account of cost of printing, only one locality is usually given after each plant name. Where the plant is found in all, or almost all, the 112 vice-counties of Watson's Topographical Botany, no locality is given. When several localities have been recorded, one has been usually selected, the only guiding principle in the selection having been to distribute the localities as widely as possible throughout the county. Where no locality is given for a comparatively rare plant, and the letters T.B. are inserted after the name, it is implied that the record is taken from the Topographical Botany, and is therefore trustworthy. The localities when given are on the authority of the following collectors:—Mr. W. Bowles Barrett (*Journal of Botany*, 1885), Rev. H. N. Ridley, Rev. Augustin Ley (*Botanical Record Club's Reports*, 1875-1884), Miss Fryer (*J. of B.*, 1884), Prof. R. W. Phillips (*J. of B.*, 1892).

No attempt has been made in the list to deal adequately with such genera as *Rubus*, *Rosa*, *Hieracium*, and *Salix*, as represented within the county. The available records are, however, given. Serious students of the genera are recommended to

put themselves into communication with specialists on these genera, and submit to them their collections for identification. The English names of the families are adapted from Bentham's British Flora.

October, 1921.

REGINALD W. PHILLIPS.

I.—RANUNCULACEAE—THE RANUNCULUS FAMILY.

2. Thalictrum, L.

✓4 minus, L. *Small Meadow Rue.* Beacons.

5 majus, Crantz. Erwood.

7 flavum, L. *Meadow Rue.* Com. Llangasty.

a. sphaerocarpum, Lej. & Court. Llangorse Lake.

3. Anemone, L.

9 nemorosa, L. *Wood Anemone.*

6. Ranunculus, L.

✓14 circinatus, Sibth. Llangorse Lake.

✓23 Lenormandi, F. Schultz. Honddu Valley.

✓24 hederaceus, L. Capel Coelbren.

✓25 sceleratus, L. *Celery-leaved Crowfoot.* Llangorse Lake.

✓27 Flammula, L. *Lesser Spearwort.*

✓30 Lingua, L. *Spearwort.* Llangorse Lake.

✓31 auricomus, L. *Goldilocks.* Brecon.

✓32 acris, L. *Buttercup Crowfoot.* Beacons.

✓33 repens, L. *Creeping Buttercup.*

✓36 parviflorus, L. *Small-flowered C.* Three Cocks.

✓39 Ficaria, L. *Small Celandine.*

7. Caltha, L.

✓40 palustris, L. *Marsh Marigold.*

b. Guerangerii (Bor.) Erwood.

c. minor, Syme. Beacons.

8. Trollius, L.

✓42 europaeus, L. *Globe Flower.* Llangorse, Penwyllt.

2.—BERBERIDACEAE—THE BARBERRY FAMILY.

16. Berberis, L.
✓ 51 vulgaris. *Barberry*.

3.—NYMPHAEACEAE—THE WATER-LILY FAMILY.

16. Nymphaea, L.
✓ 53 lutea. *Yellow Water Lily*. Llangorse Lake.
19. Castalia, Salisb.
✓ 55 alba, Wood. *White Water Lily*. Llangorse Lake.

4.—PAPAVERACEAE—THE POPPY FAMILY.

20. Papaver, L.
✓ 57 Rhoëas, L. *Red Poppy*.
✓ 58 dubium, L. *Pale Red Poppy*.
✓ 59 Lecoqii, Lamotte. *Rough-head Poppy*. Talybont. +
+ 61 hybridum, L. *Rough-head Poppy*.
21. Meconopsis, Vig.
✓ 62 cambrica, Vig. *Welsh Poppy*. Rhydygoch; Blk. Mtns.
24. Chelidonium, L.
✓ 65 majus, L. *Great Celandine*.

5.—FUMARIACEAE—THE FUMITORY FAMILY.

25. Corydalis, Vent.
✓ 67 claviculata, D.C. *Climbing Fumitory*.
26. Fumaria, L.
✓ 68 capreolata, L. (pallidiflora, Jord.). *Fumitory*. +
✓ 74 officinalis, L. *Fumitory*.

6.—CRUCIFERAE—THE CRUCIFER FAMILY.

28. Cheiranthus, L.
✓ 80 Cheiri, L. *Wall-flower*. Brecon. +
29. Radicula, Hill.
81 Nasturtium-aquaticum, R. and B. *Water-cress*.
✓ 82 sylvestris, Druce.
83 palustris, Moench. Talybont.

30. *Barbarea*, Br.
 ✓85 *vulgaris*, Ait. *C. Winter Cress*.
31. *Arabis*, L.
 ✓94 *hirsuta*, Scop. *Hairy Rock Cress*. Penwyllt.
32. *Cardamine*, L.
 ✓98 *pratensis*, L. *Cuckoo-flower*.
 ✓99 *hirsuta*, L. *Hairy Bitter Cress*.
 ✓101 *impatiens*, L. *Impatient Bitter C.* Builth.
35. *Erophila*, DC.
 ✓110 *verna*, E. Meyer. *Whitlow Grass*.
38. *Sisymbrium*, L.
 ✓123 *officinale*, Scop. *Hedge Mustard*.
 ✓127 *Alliaria*, Scop. *Jack-by-the-hedge*. Gilwern.
42. *Brassica*, L.
 ✓136 *nigra*, Koch. *Black Mustard*. Hay.
 140 *arvensis*, O. Kuntze. *Charlock*.
 ✓141 *alba*, Boiss. *White Mustard*. Three Cocks.
44. *Capsella*, Medic.
 ✓145 *Bursa-pastoris*, Medic. *Shepherd's Purse*.
45. *Coronopus*, Hall.
 ✓146 *didymus*, Sm. *Wart Cress*. Hay.
46. *Lepidium*, L.
 ✓151 *campestre*, Br. *Field Cress*.
 ✓152 *heterophyllum* Benth. *Smith's Cress*. b *canescens*,
 Gren. and Godr. Newbridge.
50. *Hutchinsia*, Br.
 ✓160 *petraea*, Br. T.B.
54. *Raphanus*, L.
 ✓164 *Raphanistrum*, L. *Wild Radish*.

7.—RESEDACEAE—THE MIGNONETTE FAMILY.

55. *Reseda*, L.
 ✓168 *Luteola*, L. *Dyer's Weed, Wild Woad*. Talgarth.

8.—CISTACEAE—THE CISTUS FAMILY.

56. *Helianthemum*, Mill.
 ✓171 *Chamaecistus*, Mill. *Rock-rose*. Rhywarth; Penwyllt.

9.—VIOLACEAE—THE VIOLET FAMILY.

57. *Viola*, L.
 ✓173 *palustris*, L. *Marsh Violet*. Penwyllt. +
 ✓174 *odorata*, L. *Sweet Violet*. Brecon. —
 ✓178 *Riviniana*, Reich. *Dog Violet*.
 ✓182 *tricolor*, L. sp. coll. *Wild Pansy*. Nantgwyllt. +
 ✓183 *arvensis*, Murr. Patricio.
 ✓186 *lutea*, Huds. Black Mountains near Hay.

10.—POLYGALACEAE—THE MILKWORT FAMILY.

58. *Polygala*, L.
 ✓187 *vulgaris*, L. *Milkwort*.

12.—CAROPHYLLACEAE—THE PINK FAMILY.

61. *Saponaria*, L.
 ✓201 *officinalis*, L. *Soapwort*.
 62. *Silene*, L.
 ✓202 *latifolia*, R. & B. (*Cucubalus*, Wibel). Brynmawr.
 ✓203 *maritima*, With. *Sea-campion*. Beacons.
 64. *Lychnis*, L.
 ✓215 *dioica*, L. *Red Campion*.
 ✓216 *Flos-cuculi*, L. *Ragged Robin*.
 ✓219 *Githago*, Scop. *Corn Cockle*.
 65. *Cerastium*, L.
 ✓224 *viscosum*, L. *Broad-leaved Mouse-ear Chickweed*.
 ✓225 *vulgatum*, L. *Com. M.E. Chickweed*.
 f. alpestre. Beacons.
 68. *Stellaria*, L.
 ✓231 *aquatica*, Scop. *Great Chickweed*. Talybont.
 ✓233 *media*, Vill. *Chickweed*.
 ✓236 *Holostea*, L. *Greater Stitchwort*.
 ✓238 *graminea*, L. *Heath Stitchwort*.
 ✓239 *uliginosa*, Murr. *Bog Stitchwort*.

69. *Arenaria*, L.
 ✓ 240 *verna*, L. *Spring Sandwort*. Beacons.
 ✓ 244 *trinervia*, L. *Three-nerved S.*
 ✓ 245 *serpyllifolia*, L. *Thyme-leaved Sandwort*.
 70. *Sagina*, L.
 ✓ 253 *apetala*, Ard. *Annual Pearlwort*. Talybont.
 ✓ 254 *ciliata*, Fr. *Ciliated Pearlwort*.
 ✓ 256 *procumbens*, L. *Common Pearlwort*.
 ✓ 261 *nodosa*, Fenzl. *Knotted Spurrey*. Pentwyn.
 71. *Spergula*.
 ✓ 262 *arvensis*, L. *Corn Spurrey*.
 72. *Spergularia*, Presl.
 ✓ 264 *rubra* Presl. *Red Sandwort*.

13.—PORTULACACEAE.—THE PURSLANE FAMILY.

75. *Montia*, L.
 ✓ 272 *fontana*, L. *Blinks*. Aber Elan.

16.—HYPERICACEAE.—THE HYPERICUM FAMILY.

78. *Hypericum*, L.
 ✓ 276 *Androsaemum*, L. *Tutsan*. Gilwern.
 ✓ 280 *perforatum*, L. *St. John's Wort*.
 282 *quadrangulum*, L. *Marsh St. John's Wort*.
 ✓ 284 *humifusum*, L. *Creeping S. J. Wort*. Llangorse.
 ✓ 287 *hirsutum*, L. *Stinking S. J. Wort*. Llanhamlach.

17.—MALVACEAE.—THE MALLOW FAMILY.

81. *Malva*, L.
 ✓ 294 *moschata*, L. *Musk Mallow*. Talybont.
 ✓ 295 *sylvestris*, L. *Common Mallow*.
 ✓ 296 *rotundifolia*, L. *Dwarf Mallow*. Llangorse.

18.—TILIACEAE.—THE LIME FAMILY.

82. *Tilia*, L.
 ✓ 301 *vulgaris*, Hayne. *Lime-tree* (planted).
 ✓ 302 *cordata*, Mill. *Lime-tree* (native).

19.—LINACEAE—THE FLAX FAMILY.

84. *Linum*, L.

+ 304 *catharticum*, L. *Purging Flax*.

307 *usitatissimum*, L. *Flax, Linseed*.

20.—GERANIACEAE—THE GERANIUM FAMILY.

85. *Geranium*, L.

+ 312 *sylvaticum*, L. *Mtn. Cranesbill*. Taren-yr-Esgob.

313 *pratense*, L. *Meadow C.* Talgarth.

315 *molle*, L. *Dovesfoot C.*

318 *dissectum*, L. *Jagged-leaved C.*

319 *columbinum*, L. *Long-stalked C.* Three Cocks.

320 *lucidum*, L. *Shining C.* Gilwern.

321 *Robertianum*, L. *Herb Robert*.

+ 86. *Erodium*, L. Herit.

322 *cicutarium*, L. Herit. *Hemlock Stork's-bill*.

87. *Oxalis*, L.

+ 325 *Acetosella*, L. *Wood-sorrel*.

21.—AQUIFOLIACEAE—THE HOLLY FAMILY.

89. *Ilex*, L.

+ 352 *Aquifolium*, L. *Holly*.

22.—CELASTRACEAE—THE CELASTRUS FAMILY.

90. *Euonymus*, L.

333 *europaeus*, L. *Spindle-tree*. Talgarth.

23.—RHAMNACEAE—THE BUCKTHORN FAMILY.

91. *Rhamnus*, L.

334 *catharticus*, L. *Buckthorn*. Penwyllt.

335 *Frangula*, L. *Berry-bearing Alder*. Llangorse.

24.—ACERACEAE—THE MAPLE FAMILY.

92. *Acer*, L.

336 *Pseudo-platanus*, L. *Sycamore*.

337 *campestre*, L. *Maple*. Talgarth.

25.—LEGUMINOSAE—THE PEAFLOWER FAMILY.

95. *Ulex*, L.
 342 *europaeus*, L. *Furze, Gorse.*
 343 *Gallii*, Planch. *Western Furze.* Hills.
 344 *minor*, Roth (*nanus*, Forster). T.B.
96. *Cytisus*, L.
 345 *scoparius*, Link. *Broom.*
97. *Ononis*, L.
 346 *repens*. *Rest-harrow.*
98. *Trigonella*, L.
 349 *ornithopodioides*, D.C. *Bird's-foot Foenugreek.* T.B.
99. *Medicago*, L.
 353 *lupulina*, L. *Black Medick or Nonsuch.*
101. *Trifolium*, L.
 363 *pratense*, L. *Common Trefoil, Clover.*
 364 *medium*, L. Cwm Tarell.
 370 *arvense*, L. *Hare's-foot Trefoil.* Three Cocks.
 377 *hybridum*, L. *Alsike Clover.*
 378 *repens*, L. *Dutch Clover.*
 382 *procumbens*, L. *Hop Trefoil.*
 383 *dubium*, Sibth. (=minus). *Small Yellow Trefoil.*
 384 *filiforme*, L. *Least Yellow Trefoil.* Mynydd Troed.
102. *Anthyllis*, L.
 385 *Vulneraria*, L. *Kidney Vetch or Lady's-fingers.*
107. *Ornithopus*, L.
 397 *perpusillus*, L. *Bird's-foot.*
110. *Vicia*, L.
 401 *hirsuta*, Gray. *Hairy Tare.* Bronllys.
 402 *tetrasperma*, Moench. *Smooth Tare.* Bronllys.
 404 *Cracca*, L. *Tufted Vetch.*
 405 *Orobus*, D.C. *Wood Bitter Vetch.* Treacastle.
 407 *sepium*, L. *Hedge Vetch.*
 411 *sativa*, L. *Vetches.*
 412 *angustifolia*, L. *Narrow-leaved VVetch.*
 414 *bithynica*, L. Brecon.
 — *b. angustifolia*, Syme. *Bithynian Vetch.*

111. *Lathyrus*, L.
 419 *pratensis*, L. *Yellow Meadow Vetchling*.
 425 *montanus*, Bernh. *Tuberous Bitter V.* Doldowlod.
 — *b. tenuifolius*, Roth. Brecon.

26.—ROSACEAE—THE ROSE FAMILY.

112. *Prunus*, L.
 427 *spinosa*, L. *Sloe, Blackthorn*.
 428 *insititia*, L. *Bullace*. Llanhamlach.
 429 *domestica*, L. *Wild Plum*. Cwm Tarell.
 430 *avium*, L. *Gean*. Fenni-fach.
 431 *Cerasus*, L. *Cherry*. T.B.
 432 *Padus*, L. *Bird Cherry*. Elan Valley.
- 113 *Spiraea*, L.
 434 *Ulmaria*, L. *Meadow Sweet*.
114. *Rubus*, L.
 436 *idaeus*, L. *Raspberry*.
 438 *suberectus*, Anders. Capel Coelbren.
 441 *plicatus*, Wh. and N. Penbont.
 443 *affinis*, Wh. & N.
 452 *Lindleianus*, Lees. Tallyllyn.
 476 *macrophyllus*, Wh. & N.
 487 *leucostachys*, Sm.
 530 *Koehleri*, Wh. & N.
 547 *Balfourianus*, Blox. Three Cocks.
 549 *caesius*, L. *Dewberry*. Talgarth.
 550 *saxatilis*, L. *Stone Bramble*. Penwyllt.
116. *Geum*, L.
 553 *urbanum*, L. *Wood Avens*.
 554 *rivale*, L. *Water Avens*.
117. *Fragaria*, L.
 555 *vesca*, L. *Strawberry*.
118. *Potentilla*, L.
 558 *sterilis*, Garcke. *Barren Strawberry*.
 561 *erecta*, Hampe. *Tormentilla*.
 562 *procumbens*, Sibth. *Creeping T.* Elan Valley.

- 563 reptans, L. *Creeping Cinquefoil*.
 564 Anserina, L. *Silver Weed*.
119. Alchemilla, L.
 570 arvensis, Scop. *Lady's Mantle*. Nantgwyllt.
 571 vulgaris, L. *Common Lady's Mantle*.
120. Agrimonia, L.
 573 Eupatoria, L. *Agrimony*.
 574 odorata, Mill. *Fragrant A*.
121. Poterium, L.
 575 Sanguisorba, L. *Lesser Burnet*. Penwyllt.
 577 officinale, A. Gray. *Great Burnet*. Dolygaer.
122. Rosa, L.
 578 spinosissima, L. *Burnet Rose*. Taren-yr-Esgob.
 588 tomentosa, Sm. *Downy-leaved Rose*. Penwyllt.
 594 micrantha, Sm. *Sweet Briar*.
 597 canina, L. *Dog Rose*.
 — a. lutetiana (Leman).
 — b. senticosa (Ach). Brecon.
 598 dumetorum (JL.).
 — d. urbica (Leman). Hay.
 599 glauca, Vill.
 — e. subscristata (Baker). Dolygaer.
 600 coriifolia, Fr. Brecon.
 — b. Watsoni (Baker). Hay.
 602 arvensis, Huds. *Trailing Rose*.
123. Pyrus, L.
 609 torminalis, Ehrh. *Service Tree*.
 611 Aria, Ehrh. *White Beam*.
 — b. rupicola, Syme. Border of Monmouth, Honddu V.
 612 intermedia, Ehrh.
 617 Aucuparia, Ehrh. *Mountain Ash*.
 620 Malus, L. *Crab*.
 — b. Mitis, Wallr.
124. Crataegus, L.
 622 Oxyacantha, L. *Hawthorn*.
 623 monogyna, Jacq.

27.—SAXIFRAGACEAE—THE SAXIFRAGE FAMILY.

126. *Saxifraga*, L.
 625 *oppositifolia*, L. *Purple Saxifrage*. Beacons.
 627 *stellaris*, L. *Starry S.*
 633 *tridactylites*, L. *Rue-leaved S.* Talyllyn.
 636 *granulata*, L. *Meadow S.* Fenni-fach.
 641 *sponhemica*, Gmel. Taren-yr-Esgob.
 642 *hypnoides*, L. *Mossy S.* Beacons; Blk. Mtns.
 127 *Chrysosplenium*, L.
 643 *oppositifolium*, L. *Opposite-leaved Golden S.*
 644 *alternifolium*, L. *Alternate-leaved G.S.* Capelyffin.
 129. *Ribes*, L.
 646 *Grossularia*, L. *Gooseberry* (? introduced).

28.—CRASSULACEAE—THE CRASSULA FAMILY.

131. *Coyledon*, L.
 651 *Umbilicus-Veneris*, L. *Navelwort*. Elan Valley.
 132. *Sedum*, L.
 653 *Telephium*, L. *Orpine*. Newbridge.
 654 *purpureum*, Tausch. (= *S. Rhodiola*). Beacons.
 659 *anglicum*, Huds. *English Stonecrop*. Erwood.
 660 *acre*, L. *Biting Yellow Stonecrop*.
 662 *reflexum*, L. *Large Y.S.* (? not native).
 664 *Forsterianum*, Sm. *Small Welsh S.* Beacons.

29.—DROSERACEAE—THE SUNDEW FAMILY.

134. *Drosera*, L.
 666 *rotundifolia*, L. *Com. Sundew*. Blk. Mtns., Penwyllt.

30.—HALORAGACEAE—THE MARE'S-TAIL FAMILY.

136. *Myriophyllum*, L.
 671 *spicatum*, L. *Spiked Water-Milfoil*. Hay.
 672 *alterniflorum*, DC. *Alternat-flwd. W-M.* Brecon.
 137. *Callitriche*, L.
 674 *stagnalis*, Scop. *Water-Starwort*.

- 676 *intermedia*, Hoffm. (= *hamulata*, Kuetz). Dolygaer.
 677 *obtusangula*, LeGall.

31.—LYTHRACEAE—THE LYTHRUM FAMILY.

139. *Lythrum*, L.
 681 *Salicaria*, L. *Purple Loose-strife*. Llangorse.

32.—ONAGRACEAE—THE OENOTHERA FAMILY.

140. *Epilobium*, L.
 683 *angustifolium*, L. *Rose-bay, Willow-Herb*. Collwn V.
 684 *hirsutum*, L. *Hairy W. Herb*.
 685 *parviflorum*, Schreb. *Hoary W.H.*
 686 *montanum*, L. *Broad Smooth-leaved W.H.*
 689 *roseum*, Schreb. *Pale W.H.*
 690 *tetragonum* Curt. (= *adnatum*, Griseb). *Sq.-stalked W.H.*
 691 *obscurum*, Schreb.
 693 *palustre*, L. *Marsh W.H.*
143. *Circaea*, L.
 701 *lutetiana*, L. *Com. Enchanter's Night-shade*.
 702 *alpina*, L. *Alpine E.N.* Erwood.

33.—CUCURBITACEAE—THE GOURD FAMILY.

144. *Bryonia*, L.
 703 *dioica*, Jacq. *White Bryony*. Llynfi Valley.

34.—UMBELLIFERAE—UMBELLATE FAMILY.

145. *Hydrocotyle*, L.
 704 *vulgaris*, L. *Marsh Penny-wort*. Eppynt.
148. *Sanicula*, L.
 708 *europaea*, L. *Wood Sanicle*.
150. *Conium*, L.
 710 *maculatum*, L. *Hemlock*. Bronllys.
154. *Apium*, L.
 718 *nodiflorum*, Reichb. fil. *Marsh-wort*.
156. *Carum*, L.
 721 *verticillatum*, Koch. *Carraway*. Coelbren.

157. *Sium*, L.
729 *erectum*, Huds. *Water Parsnip*. Llangorse.
160. *Aegopodium*, L.
730 *Podograria*, L. *Gout-weed*.
161. *Pimpinella*, L.
731 *Saxifraga*, L. *Small Burnet Saxifrage*.
162. *Conopodium*, Koch.
733 *majus*, Loret. (*denudatum*, Koch). *Pignut*.
163. *Myrrhis*, Scop.
734 *Odorata*, Scop. *Sweet Cicely*. Grwynefawr Valley.
164. *Chaerophyllum*, L.
755 *temulum*, L. *Rough Chevril*.
165. *Scandix*, L.
736 *Pecten-Veneris*, L. *Shepherd's Needle*.
166. *Anthriscus*, Bernh.
737 *vulgaris*, Bernh.
738 *sylvestris*, Hoffm. *Keck*.
170. *Oenanthe*, L.
743 *fistulosa*, L. *Water-dropwort*. Llangorse.
747 *crocata*, L. *Hemlock Water-Dropwort*.
171. *Aethusa*, L.
750 *Cynapium*, L. *Fool's Parsley*.
173. *Silaus*, Bernh.
752 *flavescens*, Bernh. *Pepper Saxifrage*. T.B.
177. *Angelica*, L.
756 *sylvestris*, L. *Angelica*.
180. *Heracleum*, L.
762 *Sphondylium*, L. *Hogweed, Cow Parsnip*.
183. *Daucus*, L.
765 *Carota*, L. *Wild Carrot*. Local. Tallyllyn.
184. *Caucalis*, L.
769 *arvensis*, Huds. (= *infesta*). *Spreading Hedge Parsley*.
770 *Anthriscus*, Huds. *Hedge Parsley*.

35.—ARALIACEAE—THE ARALIA FAMILY.

185. *Hedera*, L.
772 *Helix*, L. *Ivy*.

36.—CORNACEAE—THE CORNEL FAMILY.

186. *Cornus*, L.
774 *sanguinea*, L. *Dogwood*. Llynfi Valley.

37.—CAPRIFOLIACEAE—THE HONEYSUCKLE FAMILY.

187. *Adoxa*, L.
775 *Moschatellina*, L. *Tuberous Moschatel*. Honddu Vly.
188. *Sambucus*, L.
776 *nigra*, L. *Elder*.
777 *Ebulus*, L. *Dane-wort*. Hay.
189. *Viburnum*, L.
778 *Opulus*, L. *Wild Guelder Rose*. Tarell valley.
191. *Lonicera*, L.
782 *Periclymenum*, L. *Com. Honeysuckle*.

38.—RUBIACEAE—THE STELLATE FAMILY.

193. *Galium*, L.
785 *boreale*, L. *Northern Bed-straw*. T.B.
786 *Cruciata*, Scop. *Cross-wort*.
787 *verum*, L. *Lady's B.S.*
789 *Mollugo*, L. *Great Hedge Bedstraw*.
790 *Saxatile*, L. *Heath Bedstraw*.
792 *palustre*, L. *Marsh B.S.*
796 *Aparine*, L. *Cleavers*.
194. *Asperula*, L.
798 *odorata*, L. *Woodruff*. Builth.
195. *Sherardia*, L.
802 *arvensis*, L. *Field Madder*. Patricio.

39.—VALERIANACEAE—VALERIAN FAMILY.

196. Valeriana, L.
 803 dioica, L. *Marsh Valerian.* Taren-yr-Esgob.
 805 sambucifolia, L. *Valerian.*

198. Valerianella, Hill.
 812 rimosa, Bast. (auricula DC.). Builth.

40.—DIPSACEAE—THE TEASEL FAMILY.

199. Dipsacus, L.
 815 pilosus, L. *Shepherd's Rod.* T.B.
 200. Scabiosa, L.
 816 Succisa, L. *Devil's-bit Scabious.*
 817 Columbaria, L. *Small Scabious.* Beacons.
 818 arvensis, L. *Field Scabious.*

41.—COMPOSITAE—THE COMPOSITE FAMILY.

201. Eupatorium, L.
 820 cannabinum, L. *Hemp Agrimony.*
 202. Solidago, L.
 821 Virgaurea, L. *Golden Rod.*
 203. Bellis, L.
 822 perennis, L. *Daisy.*
 205. Erigeron, L.
 827 acre, L. *Blue Fleabane.* T.B.
 206. Filago, L.
 829 germanica, L. *Upright Cudweed.*
 832 minima, L. *Least Cudweed.*
 209. Gnaphalium, L.
 836 uliginosum, L. *Marsh Cudweed.* Elan valley.
 210. Inula, L.
 841 Helenium, L. *Elecampane.*
 211. Pulicaria, Gaertn.
 846 dysenterica, Gray. *Fleabane.*
 212. Bidens, L.
 848 Cernua, L. *Nodding Bur-Marigold.*
 849 tripartita, L. *Trifid B-M.*

214. *Achillea*, L.
 851 *Millefolium*, L. *Yarrow*.
 852 *Ptarmica*, L. *Sneezewort*. *Elan valley*.
216. *Anthemis*, L.
 854 *tinctoria*, L. *Yellow Camomile*.
 855 *Cotula*, L. *Mayweed, Stinking Camomile*.
217. *Chrysanthemum*, L.
 858 *segetum*, L. *Corn Marigold*.
 859 *Leucanthemum*, L. *Oxeye-daisy*.
 860 *Parthenium*, Bernh. *Feverfew* (introduced).
218. *Matricaria*, L.
 861 *inodora*, L. *Scentless Mayweed*. *Brecon*.
220. *Tanacetum*, L.
 866 *vulgare*, L. *Tansy*. *Gilwern*.
221. *Artemisia*, L.
 867 *Absinthium*, L. *Wormwood*. *Three Cocks*.
 868 *vulgaris*, L. *Mugwort*.
222. *Tussilago*, L.
 872 *Farfara*, L. *Coltsfoot*.
223. *Petasites*, Hill.
 874 *ovatus*, Hill. *Butterbur*.
225. *Senecio*, L.
 878 *vulgaris*, L. *Groundsel*.
 879 *sylvaticus*, L. *Heath Groundsel*. *Llanwrthwl*.
 880 *viscosus*, L. *Stinking Groundsel*. *T.B.*
 883 *Jacobaea*, L. *Ragwort*.
 884 *aquaticus*, Hill. *Marsh Ragwort*.
226. *Carlina*, L.
 891 *vulgaris*, L. *Carlina Thistle*. *Penwyllt*.
227. *Arctium*, L.
 893 *nemorosum*, Lej. (=intermedium). *Small Burdock*.
 894 *minus*, Bernh. *Great Burdock*.
228. *Carduus*, L.
 897 *nutans*, L. *Musk Thistle*. *Brecon*.
 898 *crispus*, L. *Wetted Thistle*. *Usk Valley*.

229. *Cnicus*, L.
 899 *lanceolatus*, Willd. *Spear Thistle*.
 901 *palustris*, Willd. *Marsh T.*
 903 *pratensis*, Willd. *Meadow T.*
 906 *arvensis*, Hoffm. *Field T.*
233. *Serratula*, L.
 910 *tinctoria*, L. *Saw-wort*. Tarell valley.
234. *Centaurea*, L.
 912 *nigra*, L. *Hardhead Knapweed*.
237. *Lapsana*, L.
 921 *communis*, L. *Nipplewort*.
238. *Picris*, L.
 922 *hieracioides*, L. *Hawkweed Oxtongue*. Talgarth.
238. *Crepis*, L.
 927 *capillaris*, Wallr. (= *virens*, L.). *Smooth Hawksbeard*.
240. *Hieracium*, L.
 932 *Pilosella*, L. *Mouse-ear Hawkweed*.
 963 *Leyi*, F. J. Hanb.
 967 *caledonicum*, F. J. Hanb.
 972 *hypochaeroides*, Gibs.
 986 *sanguineum*, Ley.
 1004 *rivale*, F. J. Hanb.
 1012 *euprepes*, F. J. Hanb.
 1013 *caesium*, Fr. Beacons.
 1022 *vulgatum*, Fr. Gilwern.
 1023 *acroleucum*, Stenstr.
 b. daedalolepium, Dahlst.
 c. mutabile, Ley.
 1025 *orarium*, Lindeb. f.
 1027 *angustatum*, Lindeb.
 1036 *cacuminatum*, Dahlst.
 1037 *diaphanoides*, Lindeb.
 1050 *gothicum*, Fr. Tarell valley.
 1054 *tridentatum*, Fr. Wye bank, Boughrood.
 1055 *rigidum*, Hartm.
 1056 *prenanthoides*, Vill. Taren-yr-Esgob.

- 1062 *sabaudum*, L.
 b. boreale (Fr.). Nantgwyllt.
 1063 *umbellatum*, L. *Umbellate Hawkweed*. Penwyllt.
241. *Hypochoeris*, L.
 1066 *radicata*, L. *Long-rooted Cat's-ear*.
242. *Leontodon*, L.
 1068 *nudicaule*, Banks. (= *hirtum*, L.).
 1069 *hispidum*, L. *Rough Hawkbit*.
 1070 *autumnale*, L. *Autumnal Hawkbit*.
243. *Taraxacum*, Hall.
 1071 *officinale*, Weber. *Dandelion*.
 1072 *erythrospermum*, Andr.
 b. Laevigatum, (DC.). Penwyllt.
244. *Lactuca*, L.
 1078 *muralis*, Gaertn. *Wall Lettuce*. Builth.
245. *Sonchus*, L.
 1081 *asper*, Hill. *Rough Sowthistle*.
 1082 *arvensis*, L. *Corn Sowthistle*.
246. *Tragopogon*, L.
 1084 *pratense*, L. *Goatsbeard*. Talybont.

42.—CAMPANULACEAE—THE CAMPANULA FAMILY.

248. *Jasione*, L.
 1089 *montana*, L. *Sheep's Scabious*. Rhayader.
249. *Wahlenbergia*, Schrad.
 1090 *hederacea*, Reichb. *Ivy-leaf Bellflower*. Elan Valley.
251. *Campanula*, L.
 1095 *latifolia*, L. *Throatwort*. Brecon.
 1097 *rotundifolia*, L. *Hair-bell, Harebell*.
 1100 *patula*, L. *Spreading Bellflower*. Llyswen.

43.—VACCINIACEAE—THE BILBERRY FAMILY.

253. *Vaccinium*, L.
 1102 *Vitis-idaea*, L. *Crowberry*. Black Mtns.
 1104 *Myrtillus*, L. "*Wimberry*," *Bilberry, Blaeberry, etc.*

254. *Oxycoccus*, Hill.
 1105 quadripetala, Gilib. *Cranberry*. T.B.

44.—ERICACEAE.—THE HEATH FAMILY.

258. *Calluna*, Salisb.
 1110 vulgaris, Hull. (*Erica*, DC.). *Ling, Heather*.
 259. *Erica*, L.
 1112 Tetralix, L. *Cross-leaved Heather*.
 1114 cinerea, L. *Heather*.

46.—PLUMBAGINACEAE.—THE PLUMBAGO FAMILY.

268. *Statice*, L.
 1132 Maritima, Mill. *Sea-thrift*.

47.—PRIMULACEAE.—THE PRIMROSE FAMILY.

270. *Primula*, L.
 1135 vulgaris, Huds. *Primrose*.
 1136 veris, L. *Cowslip*. Talgarth.
 272. *Lysimachia*, L.
 1142 vulgaris, L. *Yellow Loosestrife*. Llangorse.
 1145 Nummularia, L. *Moneywort*. Erwood.
 1146 nemorum, L. *Yellow Pimpernel*. Elan valley.
 274. *Glaux*, L.
 1148 maritima, L. *Sea-milkwort*.
 275. *Anagallis*, L.
 1149 arvensis, L. *Scarlet Pimpernel*. Newbridge.
 1151 tenella, Murr. *Bog Pimpernel*. Penderyn.

48.—OLEACEAE.—THE JESSAMINE FAMILY.

278. *Fraxinum*, L.
 1154 excelsior, L. *Ash*.
 279. *Ligustrum*, L.
 1155 vulgare, L. *Privet*.

50.—GENTIANACEAE—THE GENTIAN FAMILY.

283. *Centaurium*, Hill.
 1160 *umbellatum*, Gilib. *Centaury*. Erwood.
286. *Menyanthes*, L.
 1174 *trifoliata*, L. *Bog-bean*.

51.—POLEMONIACEAE—THE POLEMONIUM FAMILY.

288. *Polemonium*, L.
 1176 *Coeruleum*, L. *Jacob's Ladder*. (an escape).

52.—BORAGINACEAE—THE BORAGE FAMILY.

291. *Symphytum*, L.
 1180 *officinale*, L. *Common Comfrey*. Newbridge.
 1181 *tuberosum*, L. *Tuberous Comfrey*. T.B.
294. *Lycopsis*, L.
 1185 *arvensis*, L. *Field Alkanet*. Talybont.
297. *Myosotis*, L.
 1189 *cespitosa*, Schultz. Gilwern.
 1190 *scorpioides*, L. (*palustris* Hill). *Field Scorpion-grass*.
 Builth.
 1191 *repens*, G. & D. Don. *Forget-me-not*. Garth.
 1194 *arvensis*, Hill.

53.—CONVOLVULACEAE—THE CONVULVULUS FAMILY.

300. *Calystegia*, Br.
 1202 *sepium*, Br. *Large Bindweed*.
301. *Convolvulus*, L.
 1204 *arvensis*, L. *Corn Bindweed*.

54.—SOLANACEAE—THE SOLANUM FAMILY.

303. *Solanum*, L.
 1208 *Dulcamara*, L. *Bitter-sweet*. Three Cocks.

55.—SCROPHULARIACEAE—THE SCROPHULARIA FAMILY.

308. *Verbascum*, L.
 1214 *Thapsus*, L. *Aaron's Rod*. Pipton.
309. *Linaria*, L.
 1220 *Cymbalaria*, Mill. *Ivy-leaved Toadflax*. Crickhowell.
 1226 *repens*, Mill. T.B.
 1227 *vulgaris*, Mill. *Yellow Toadflax*. Llyswen.
 1228 *minor*, Desf. (= *viscida*, Moench). Talyllyn.
311. *Scrophularia*, L.
 1231 *aquatica*, L. *Water Scrophularia*.
 1233 *nodosa*, L. *Figwort*. Penwyllt.
315. *Digitalis*, L.
 1239 *purpurea*, L. *Foxglove*.
316. *Veronica*, L.
 1240 *hederaefolia*, L. *Ivy-leaved Speedwell*.
 1241 *didyma*. Ten. (*polita*, Fr.) *Grey Field S.* Penwyllt.
 1242 *agrestis*, L. *Field Speedwell*.
 1243 *Tournefortii*, C. Gmel. (*Buxbaumii*, Ten.).
 1248 *arvensis*, L. *Wall Speedwell*.
 1249 *serpyllifolia*, L. *Thyme-leaved S.*
 1254 *officinalis*, L. *Common Speedwell*.
 1255 *Chamaedrys*, L. *Germander S.*
 1256 *montana*, L. *Mountain S.* Brecon.
 1257 *scutellata*, L. *Marsh S.* Cwm Tarell.
 1258 *Anagallis-aquatica*, L. *Water S.*
 1259 *Beccabunga*, L. *Brook-lime*.
317. *Euphrasia*, L.
 1260 *officinalis*, L. *Eyebright*.
318. *Bartsia*, L.
 1275 *Odontites*, Huds. *Red Bartsia*.
319. *Pedicularis*, L.
 1278 *palustris*, L. *Marsh Lousewort*.
 1279 *sylvatica*, L. *Heath Lousewort*. Torpantau.
320. *Rhinanthus*, L.
 1281 *Crista-galli*, L. (*minor* Ehrh.). *Common Corn Rattle*.

321. *Melampyrum*, L.
1290 *pratense*, L. *Common Cow-wheat*.

56.—OROBANCHACEAE—THE BROOM-RAPE
FAMILY.

322. *Orobanche*, L.
1300 *Hederae*, Duby. *Ivy Broom-rape*. T.B.
1301 *minor*, Sm. *Small Broom-rape*. T.B.
323. *Lathraea*, L.
1303 *Squamaria*, L. *Toothwort*. Llandefalle.

57.—LENTIBULARIACEAE—THE PINGUICULA
FAMILY.

325. *Pinguicula*, L.
1309 *vulgaris*, L. *Common Butterwort*. Garth.

58.—VERBENACEAE—THE VERVEIN FAMILY.

326. *Verbena*, L.
1313 *officinalis*, L. *Vervein*. Hay.

59.—LABIATAE—THE LABIATE FAMILY.

327. *Mentha*, L.
1316 *longifolia*, Huds. (*M. Sylvestris*). Brecon.
1318 *piperita*, L. *Peppermint*. Penderyn.
1319 *aquatica*, L. *Water Mint*.
x. *arvensis* (*sativa*, L.). *Whorled Mint*.
1320 *rubra*, Sm. *Red Mint*.
1321 *gracilis* Sm.
1323 *arvensis*, L. *Field Mint*.
328. *Lycopus*, L.
1325 *europaeus*, L. *Gipsywort*. Gilwern.
330. *Thymus*, L.
1327 *Serpyllum*, L. *Thyme*.
331. *Clinopodium*, L.
1329 *vulgare*, L. Buithl.

332. *Calamintha*, L.
 1332 *montana*, Lam. (*officinalis*, Moench). T.B.
 b. *Briggsii*, Druce.
335. *Nepeta*, L.
 1339 *hederacea*, Trev. (= *Glechoma*, Benth). *Ground Ivy*.
336. *Scutellaria*, L.
 1340 *galericulata*, L. *Skullcap*. Llangorse.
 1341 *minor*, Huds. *Small Skullcap*. T.B.
337. *Prunella*, L.
 1342 *vulgaris*, L. *Self-Heal*.
340. *Stachys*, L. Elan valley.
 1346 *officinalis*, Trev. (*Betonica*, Benth). *Wood Betony*.
 1348 *palustris*, L. *Marsh Woundwort*.
 1349 *sylvatica*, L. *Hedge Woundwort*.
 1351 *arvensis*, L. *Field Woundwort*. Llangorse.
341. *Galeopsis*, L.
 1356 *speciosa*, Mill. *Large-flowered Hemp-nettle*. Llanwrthwl.
 1357 *Tetrahit*, L. *Common H.-Nettle*.
343. *Lamium*, L.
 1362 *purpureum*, L. *Red Deadnettle*.
 1364 *album*, L. *White D.N.* Brecon.
 1365 *Galeobdolon*, Crantz. *Yellow Archangel*. Brecon.
344. *Ballota*, L.
 1366 *nigra*, L. *Black Horehound*. Talgarth.
345. *Teucrium*, L.
 1371 *Scorodonia*, L. *Wood-sage*. Builth.
346. *Ajuga*, L.
 1372 *reptans*, L. *Bugle*.

60.—PLANTAGINACEAE—THE PLANTAIN FAMILY.

347. *Plantago*, L.
 1375 *major* L. *Great Plantain*.
 1377 *lanceolata*, L. *Ribwort Plantain*.
 1378 *maritima*, L. *Sea Plantain*. T.B.

348. *Littorella*, Bergius.
 1380 *uniflora*, Asch. (= *lacustris*, L.). *Shoreweed*. T.B.

61.—ILLECEBRACEAE—THE ILLECEBRUM.
 FAMILY.

352. *Scleranthus*, L.
 1386 *annuus*, L. *Knawel*. Talybont.

63.—CHENOPODIACEAE—THE GOOSE-FOOT
 FAMILY.

354. *Chenopodium*, L.
 1392 *album*, L. *Fat-hen*, *White Goosefoot*. Talybont.
 1398 *rubrum*, L. *Red Goosefoot*. Llangorse.
 1401 *Benus-Henricus*, L. *Good-King-Henry*. (? introduced).
 356. *Atriplex*, L.
 1404 *patula*, L. *Orach*.
 b. erecta, Huds.
 c. angustifolia, Sm.
 1405 *hastata*, L. (= *a. Smithii*). *Orach*.
 1406 *deltoides* Bab. Llangorse.

64.—POLYGONACEAE—THE POLYGONUM
 FAMILY.

360. *Polygonum*, L.
 1423 *Convolvulus*, L. *Black Bindweed*.
 1425 *aviculare*, L. *Knotgrass*.
 1428 *Hydropiper*, L. *Water-pepper*.
 1431 *Persicaria*, L. *Spotted Persicaria*.
 1432 *lapathifolium*, L. *Pale P.* Nantgwyllt.
 1433 *maculatum*, Trim & Dyer. Llangorse.
 1434 *amphibium*, L. *Floating P.* Llynfi valley.
 363. *Rumex*, L.
 1439 *conglomeratus*, Murr. *Sharp Dock*.
 1441 *sanguineus*, L. *Blood Dock*.
 1442 *maritimus*, L. *Golden Dock*. Llangorse.
 1445 *obtusifolius*, L. *Broad-leaved Dock*.

- 1446 *crispus*, L. *Common Dock*.
 1451 *Acetosa*, L. *Sorrel*.
 1453 *Acetosella*, L. *Sheep's Sorrel*. Beacons.

68.—LORANTHACEAE—THE MISTLETOE
FAMILY.

368. *Viscum*, L.
 1459 *album*, L. *Mistletoe*. Glasbury.

70.—EUPHORBIACEAE—THE SPURGE FAMILY.

370. *Euphorbia*, L.
 1462 *Helioscopia*, L. *Sun Spurge*.
 1474 *Peplus*, L. *Petty Spurge*.
 1475 *exigua*, L. *Dwarf Spurge*. Patricio.
 372. *Mercurialis*, L.
 1478 *perennis*, L. *Herb Mercury*.

71.—URTICACEAE—THE NETTLE FAMILY.

373. *Ulmus*, L.
 1480 *glabra*, Huds.
 1481 *campestris*, L. *Elm*.
 b. suberosa (Moench). Glynneath.
 374. *Humulus*, L.
 1482 *lupulus*, L. *Hop.* (? introduced). Talybont.
 375. *Urtica*, L.
 1483 *dioica*, L. *Stinging-nettle*.
 1485 *urens*, L. *Small Nettle*. Talgarth.
 376. *Parietaria*, L.
 1486 *ramiflora*, Moench. *Pellitory-of-the-Wall*. Brecon.

73.—CUPULIFERAE—THE OAK FAMILY.

378. *Betula*, L.
 1488 *alba*, L. *Birch*. Penwyllt.
 379. *Alnus*, Hill.
 1491 *rotundifolia*, Mill. (= *Glutinosa* Gaertn.). Alder.

381. *Corylus*, L.
 1493 *Avellana*, L. *Hazel*.
 382. *Quercus*, L.
 1494 *Robur*, L. *Oak*.
 a. *pedunculata*, Ehrh.
 c. *sessilifolia*, Salisb. *Sessile Oak*. Nantgwyllt.
 384. *Fagus*, L.
 1496 *sylvatica*, L. *Beech*.

74.—SALICACEAE—THE WILLOW FAMILY.

385. *Salix*, L.
 1500 *fragilis*, L. *Crack Willow*.
 1596 *caprea*, L. *Goat Willow*. Nantgwyllt
 1507 *aurita*, L. *Auricled Sallow*. Cwm Tarell.
 1508 *cinerea*, L. *Grey Sallow*. Elan valley.
 1512 *repens*, L. *Creeping or Dwarf W.* Capel Coelbren.
 1515 *herbacea*, L. *Least Willow*. Beacons.

75.—EMPETRACEAE—THE EMPETRUM FAMILY.

387. *Empetrum*, L.
 1520 *nigrum*, L. *Crowberry*. Taf-fechan valley.

77.—CONIFERAE—THE PINE FAMILY.

390. *Taxus*, L.
 1525 *baccata*, L. *Yew*. (Seeds itself).

79.—ORCHIDACEAE—THE ORCHID FAMILY.

398. *Neottia*, Adans.
 1534 *Nidus-avis*, Rich. *Birdnest Orchid*. Pontneddfechan.
 399. *Listera*, Br.
 1536 *ovata*, Br. *Twayblade*. Brecon.
 404. *Helleborine*, Hill.
 1545 *latifolia*, Druce. *Broad-Leaved Helleborine*. Bronllys.
 1548 *atrorubens*, Druce. T.B.

405. *Orchis*, L.
 1557 *mascula*, L. *Early Purple Orchis*.
 1559 *incarnata*, L. *Marsh O.* Gludy lake.
 1562 *maculata*, L. *Spotted Orchis*.
 409. *Habenaria*, Willd.
 1570 *conopsea*, Benth. *Fragrant O.* Black Mtns.
 1572 *albida*, Br. T.B.
 1573 *viridis*, Br. *Frog Orchis*. T.B.
 1574 *bifolia*, Br. *Sm. Butterfly O.* Grwynefawr V.

80.—IRIDACEAE—THE IRIS FAMILY.

411. *Iris*, L.
 1579 *Pseudacorus*, L. *Yellow Iris*. Brecon.

81.—AMARYLLIDACEAE—THE AMARYLLIS FAMILY.

416. *Narcissus*, L.
 1587 *Pseudo-Narcissus*, L. *Daffodil*. Ffrwdgrech.

82.—DIOSCOREACEAE—THE YAM FAMILY.

419. *Tamus*, L.
 1596 *communis*, L. *Black Bryony*. Llynfi valley.

83.—LILIACEAE—THE LILY FAMILY.

424. *Convallaria*, L.
 1603 *majalis*, L. *Lily-of-the-valley*. Craig Rhiwarth.
 426. *Allium*, L.
 1612 *Schoenoprasum*, L. *Chives*. Builth.
 1615 *ursinum*, L. *Ramsons*. Fenni-fach.
 428. *Scilla*, L.
 1619 *non-scripta*, Hoffm and Link. *Bluebell*.
 435. *Colchicum*, L.
 1629 *autumnale*, L. *Meadow Saffron*. Glasbury.
 436. *Narthecium*, Huds.
 1630 *ossifragum*, Huds. *Bog Asphodel*. Nantgwyllt.

438. Paris, L.

1632 quadrifolia, L. *Herb Paris*.

Llandefalle.

Wern wind. 1944

84.—JUNCACEAE—THE RUSH FAMILY.

439. Juncus, L.

1633 bufonius, L. *Toad Rush*.1635 squarrosus, L. *Heath Rush*.1636 compressus, Jacq. *Round-fruited Rush*. Brecon.

1641 inflexus, L. (glaucus, Ehrh.). Capel Colbren.

1642 effusus, L.

1643 conglomeratus, L. *Common Rush*.1646 bulbosus, L. (supinus, Moench.). *Lesser Jointed R.*1651 articulatus, L. *Shining-fruited R.*

1651 sylvaticus, Reich (= acutiflorus, Ehrh.).

440. Luzula, DC.

1657 pilosa, Willd. *Hairy Wood Rush*. Ffrwdgrech.

1658 sylvatica, Gaud. (maxima, DC.). Capel Colbren.

1661 campestris, DC. *Field Wood Rush*.1662 multiflora, DC. *Heath Wood Rush*. Beacons.

b. congesta, Lej.

85.—TYPHACEAE—THE BULRUSH FAMILY.

441. Typha, L.

1664 latifolia, L. *Great Reed Mace*. Tallylyn.1665 angustifolia, L. *Narrow-ld. Reed Mace*. Llangorse L.

442. Sparganium, L.

1666 erectum, L. *Great Bur-reed*. Talybont.1668 simplex, Huds. *Flowering Bur-reed*. Llangorse.

86.—ARACEAE—THE ARUM FAMILY.

443. Arum, L.

1671 maculatum, L. *Lords -and-ladies*. Cuckoo Pint.

87.—LEMNACEAE—THE DUCKWEED FAMILY.

445. Lemna, L.

1674 trisulca, L. *Ivy-leaved Duckweed*. Llynfi river.1675 minor L. *Small Duckweed*.

88.—ALISMACEAE—THE ALISMA FAMILY.

447. *Alisma*, L.
 1679 *Plantago-aquatica*, L. *Water Plantain*. Llangorse L.
 1680 *lanceolatum*, With. Llangorse L.
 451. *Butomus*, L.
 1685 *umbellatus*, L. *Flowering Rush*. Llangorse L.

89.—NAIADACEAE—THE NAIAD FAMILY.

452. *Triglochin*, L.
 1686 *palustre*, L. *Marsh Arrowgrass*. Llangorse Lake.
 454. *Potamogeton*, L.
 1689 *natans*, L. *Broad-leaved Pondweed*. Llangorse Lake.
 1690 *polygonifolius*, Pourr. River Wye.
 1703 *perfoliatus*, L. Hay.
 1704 *crispus*, L. *Curly Pondweed*. Canal.
 1711 *pusillus*, L. *Small Pondweed*. Hirwain.
 455. *Ruppia*, L.
 1719 *rostellata*, Koch. *Tassel Pondweed*. Talybont.

91.—CYPERACEAE—THE SEDGE FAMILY.

461. *Eleocharis*, Br.
 1731 *acicularis*, Ro. & Sch. *Smallest Club-rush*. Llangorse.
 1732 *palustris*, Ro. & Sch. *Marsh Club-rush*. Glasbury.
 462. *Scirpus*, L.
 1735 *pauciflorus*, Lightf. *Fewflwd. Club-rush*. Penwyllt.
 1736 *caespitosus*, L. *Deersgrass*.
 1740 *setaceus*, L. *Bristle Club-rush*. Penwyllt.
 1743 *Tabernaemontani*, Gmel. *Bulrush*. Llangorse Lake.
 463. *Eriophorum*, L.
 1751 *vaginatum*, L. *Harestail Cottongrass*. Beacons.
 1752 *angustifolium*, Roth. *Narrow-lvd. C.* Eppynt.
 468. *Carex*, L.
 1761 *dioica*, L. *Dioecious Sedge*. Beacons.
 1763 *pulicaris*, L. *Flea Sedge*. Honddu valley.
 1769 *disticha*, Huds. *Soft Brown Sedge*. Llangorse.
 1770 *arenaria*, L. *Sand Sedge*. T.B.

Carex vulpina. Fox Sedge. Pendergyn..

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- 1773 paniculata, L. Tussock Sedge. Torpantau.
 1777 muricata, L. Honddu valley.
 1778 divulsa, Stokes. Llangorse.
 1779 echinata, Murr. Prickly Sedge. Honddu valley.
 1780 remota, L. Distant-spiked Sedge. Penwyllt.
 1783 curta, Good. (= canescens auct. non Linn) Grey Sedge.
 1784 leporina, L. (ovalis, Good). Oval Sedge. Doldowlod.
 1790 gracilis, Curt. Slender-spiked Sedge.
 1796 Goodenowii, Gay. (= vulgaris). Common Sedge.
 1797 flacca, Schreb. (glauc, Scop). Glaucus Sedge.
 1804 montana, L. Hill Sedge. Penwyllt.
 1805 pilulifera, L. Pill-headed Sedge. Honddu valley.
 1807 caryophyllea, Latourr. (= verna. Chaix). Vernal Sedge.
 1809 pallescens, L. Pale Sedge. Talybont.
 1810 panicea, L. Carnation Sedge. Capel Coelbren.
 1817 sylvatica, Huds. Wood Sedge. Builth.
 1818 helodes, Link. Smooth-stalked Sedge. Cwm Tarell.
 1819 binervis, Sm. Green-ribbed Sedge. Penwyllt.
 1822 fulva, Host. Tawny Sedge. Pentwyn.
 1824 flava, L. Yellow Sedge. Llangorse.
 1827 hirta, L. Hairy Sedge. Llangorse.
 1829 acutiformis, Ehrh. (= paludosa, Good). Com. Sedge.
 [Llangorse.
 1831 inflata, Huds. (= ampullacea). Slender-beaked S.
 Taf-fechan valley.
 1832 vesicaria, L. Penwyllt.

92.—GRAMINEAE—THE GRASS FAMILY.

473. Phalaris, L.
 1846 arundinacea, L. Reed Grass. Llangorse.
 474. Anthoxanthum, L.
 1847 odoratum, L. Vernal Grass.
 476. Alopecurus, L.
 1852 geniculatus, L. Alpine Foxtail.
 1854 pratensis. Meadow Foxtail.
 478. Phleum, L.
 1859 pratense, L. Timothy Grass,

480. *Agrostis*, L.
 1864 *canina*, L. *Brown Bent Grass*. Rhymney bridge.
 1865 *alba*, L. *White Bent Grass*. Usk, Brecon.
 1866 *tenuis*, Sibth. (*vulgaris*, With.). *Fine Bent Grass*.
488. *Aira*, L.
 1880 *Caryophyllea*, L. *Silver Hair Grass*. Torpantau.
 1881 *praecox*, L. *Early Hair Grass*. Cwm Tarell.
489. *Deschampsia*, Beauv.
 1883 *caespitosa*, Beauv. *Tufted Hair Grass*.
 1886 *flexuosa*, Trin. *Waved Hair Grass*. Nantgwyllt.
491. *Holcus*, L.
 1887 *mollis*, L. *Soft Grass*.
 1888 *lanatus*, L. *Yorkshire Fog*.
496. *Sieglingia*, Bernh.
 1896 *decumbens*, Bernh. (= *Triodia*). *Heath Grass*.
497. *Phragmites*, Adans.
 1897 *communis*, Trin. *Reed*. Llangorse.
499. *Cynosurus*, L.
 1899 *cristatus*, L. *Crested Dogstail*.
501. *Molinia*, Schrenk.
 1904 *coerulea*, Moench. *Purple Moorgrass*.
503. *Melica*, L.
 1906 *montana*, Huds. (= *nutans*). *Mountain Melick Grass*.
 Penwyllt.
 1907 *nutans*, L. (= *uniflora*, Retz.) *Mtn. Melick Grass*. Hay.
504. *Dactylis*, L.
 1908 *glomerata*, L. *Cock'sfoot*.
505. *Briza*, L.
 1910 *media*, Com. *Quaker Grass*. Cwm Tarell.
506. *Poa*, L.
 1912 *annua*, L. *Annual Meadow Grass*.
 1919 *nemoralis*, L. *Wood Poa*. Taren-yr-Esgob.
 1920 *compressa*, L. *Flat-stalked Poa*.
 1922 *pratensis*, L. *Smooth Meadow Grass*.
 1924 *trivialis*, L. *Rough Meadow Grass*.

507. *Glyceria* Br.
 1925 fluitans, Br. *Floating Manna G.*
 1926 plicata Fr. Cwm Tarell.
508. *Festuca*, L.
 1941 bromoides, L. (sciurioides, Roth.) Builth.
 1942 ovina, L. *Sheep's Fescue.*
 d. duriuscula Hackel. Patricio.
 1946 pratensis, Huds. *Meadow Fescue.*
 1947 elatior, L. *Meadow Fescue.*
509. *Bromus*, L.
 1948 giganteus, L. *Large Fescue.* Newbridge.
 1949 ramosus, Huds. *Hairy Brome-grass.*
 1954 sterilis, L. *Barren Brome-grass.* Builth.
 1958 hordeaceus, L. (= mollis). *Soft Brome-Grass.* T.B.
510. *Brachypodium*, Beauv.
 1961 sylvaticum, R. & S. *False Brome.* Cathedine.
511. *Lolium*, L.
 1963 perenne, L. *Rye-grass.*
512. *Agropyron*, Gaertn.
 1966 caninum, Beauv. Ffrwdgrech waterfalls
 1968 repens, Beauv. *Couchgrass, Twitch.*
514. *Nardus*, L.
 1972 stricta, L. *Matweed.* Black Mtns.

93.—FILICES—THE FERN FAMILY.

- 517.—*Hymenophyllum*, Sm.
 1979 peltatum, Desv. (= unilaterale). *Filmy Fern.*
 Taren-yr-Esgob.
520. *Pteris*, L.
 1982 aquilina, L. *Bracken.*
521. *Cryptogramme*, Br.
 1983 crispa, Br. *Parsley Fern.* Near Brecon.
522. *Blechnum*, L.
 1984 Spicant, With. *Hard Fern.* Elan valley.
523. *Asplenium*, L.
 1987 Adiantum-nigrum, L. *Black Spleenwort,*

- 1989 viride, Huds. *Green Spleenwort*. Blk. Mtns.
 1990 Trichomanes, L. *Black Maidenhair S.*
 1991 Ruta-muraria, L. *Wall-rue*.
 1992 germanicum, Weiss. T.B.
524. Athyrium, Roth.
 1994 Filix-foemina, Roth. *Lady Fern*.
525. Ceterach, Willd.
 1997 officinarum, Willd. *Rustyback Fern*. Talybont.
526. Phyllitis, Hill.
 1998 Scolopendrium, Newm. *Hartstongue*. Penderyn.
528. Cystopteris, Bern.
 2001 fragilis, Bernh. *Brittle Bladder Fern*. Grwynefawr V.
529. Polystichum, Roth.
 2005 aculeatum, Roth. *Pr. Shield Fern*. Builth.
 2006 angulare, Presl. Builth.
530. Lastrea, Presl.
 2008 montana, T. Moore. *Mountain Fern*. Elan valley.
 2009 Filix-mas, Presl. *Male Fern*.
 2013 spinulosa, Presl.
 2014 aristata, R. & B. (dilatata, Presl). Nantgwyllt.
532. Phegopteris, Presl.
 2017 Dryopteris, Fee. *Oak Fern*. Honddu valley.
 2018 Robertiana, Braun. *Limestone Polypody*. Taren Es.
 2019 polypodioides, Fr. *Beech F.* Honddu Valley.
534. Osmunda, L.
 2021 regalis, L. *Royal Fern*. Doldowlod.
535. Ophioglossum, L.
 2022 vulgatum, L. *Adders-tongue*. Talgarth.
536. Botrychium, Sw.
 2024 Lunaria, Sw. *Moonwort*. Erwood.

94.—EQUISETACEAE—THE HORSE-TAIL
 FAMILY.

537. Equisetum, L.
 2027 maximum, Lam. *Gt. Horsetail*. Ffrwdgrech.

- 2028 *arvense*, L. *Com. Horsetail*.
 2030 *sylvaticum*, L. *Wood Horsetail*.
 2031 *palustre*, L. *Wood Horsetail*.
 2032 *limosum*, L. *Smooth Horsetail*.

95.—LYCOPODIACEAE—THE CLUBMOSS FAMILY.

538. *Lycopodium*, L.
 2038 *Selago*, L. *Fir Clubmoss*. Taren-yr-Esgob.
 2042 *alpinum*, L. *Alpine Clubmoss*. Black Mtns.

96.—SELAGINELLACEAE—THE SELAGINELLA FAMILY.

540. *Isoetes*, L.
 2044 *lacustris*, L. *Quillwort*.
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LEPIDOPTERA

1--RHOPALOCERA, OR BUTTERFLIES

APPENDIX II.

FAUNA OF BRECONSHIRE.

1. Lepidoptera. Butterflies and Moths.

(a) Macrolepidoptera.

(b) Microlepidoptera.

2. Odonata. Dragonflies.

3. Isopoda. Woodlice.

4. Mollusca. Land and Freshwater Shells.

For other Fauna see Mammals, p. 130; Birds, p. 133; Fish, p. 137; Reptilia, p. 139; Amphibia, p. 140; Crustacea, p. 141.

LEPIDOPTERA.

1.—RHOPALOCERA, OR BUTTERFLIES.

I do not think this neighbourhood can be considered a good one for Butterflies. Anyone who has noticed the enormous number that are to be seen, either in the South of France or on the Alpine pastures and meadows of Savoy and Switzerland, cannot fail to be struck by the comparative scarcity of even the commonest sorts in this neighbourhood. There are between 65 and 70 species recorded for the British Isles, and I have seen and taken, except in one instance, 32 in the vicinity of Talgarth. They are the following:—

Pieris brassicae.—*Large White*. Common and abundant.

Pieris rapae.—*Small White*. Common and abundant.

Pieris napi.—*Green Veined*. Common and abundant.

Euchloe candamines.—*Orange Tip*. Common and abundant.

Colias edusa.—*Clouded Yellow*. Only occurs occasionally and in most years altogether absent.

Gonepteryx rhamni.—*Brimstone*. Decidedly rare.

Argynnis selene.—*Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary*. Not nearly so common as the next species.

Argynnis euphrosyne.—*Pearl-bordered Fritillary*. Fairly abundant in woods. More plentiful some years.

Argynnis aglaia.—*Dark Green Fritillary*. Generally distributed, but not abundant.

Argynnis adippe.—*High Brown Fritillary*. Generally distributed, but not abundant.

Argynnis paphia.—*Silver-washed Fritillary*. This lovely insect is found in most woods near brambles late in June or in July.

Melitoea artemis.—*Greasy Fritillary*. Very local; but common when found.

Vanessa c-album.—*Comma*. Found in the Wye Valley every year. Much commoner some years. Never abundant.

Vanessa urticae.—*Small Tortoiseshell*. Commonest of all the *Vanessidae*.

Vanessa io.—*Peacock*. *Vanessa atalanta*.—*Red Admiral*. Both these beautiful species are widely distributed; nowhere abundant.

Vanessa antiopa. *Camberwell Beauty*. I once saw a specimen of this lovely insect on the railway bank near Aberedw Station.

Vanessa cardui. *Painted Lady*. Very scarce, but a few are seen most years.

Pararge megera.—*Wall*. Common.

Satyrus semele.—*Grayling*. Local; common near Skreen in 1919.

Epinephele janira.—*Meadow Brown*. Abundant.

Epinephele tithonus.—*Large Heath*. Abundant.

Epinephele hyperanthus.—*Ringlet*. Very local and scarce.

Coenonympha pamphilus.—*Small Heath*. Very common.

Thecla w-album. *Black Hair-streak*. Very rare. I have taken two or three only near Skreen, Erwood.

Thecla quercus.—*Purple Hair-streak*. Rather scarce. Abundant in 1887.

Thecla rubi.—*Green Hair-streak*. Rare. Have taken some near Erwood.

Polyommatus phlaeas.—*Common Copper*. Abundant.

Lycaena icarus.—*Common Blue*. Abundant.

Lycaena argiolus.—*Azure or Holly Blue*. Often seen flying round holly trees in spring.

Hesperia tages.—*Dingy skipper*. Often seen, but not abundant.

Hesperia sylvanus.—*Large Skipper*. Often seen, but not abundant.

HETEROCERA OR MOTHS.

Acherontia atropos.—*Death's Head Moth*. Rare. In 1897 the caterpillar was quite common on potatoes round Talgarth.

Smerinthus ocellata.—*Eyed Hawk Moth*. I have taken the caterpillar several times on apple trees, and reared it up to the moth.

Smerinthus populi.—*Poplar Hawk*. Commonest of all Hawk Moths in district.

Sphinx convolvuli.—*Convolvulus Hawk Moth*. Taken occasionally.

Sphinx ligustri.—*Privet Hawk Moth*. Have taken a specimen near Velinnewydd.

Chaerocampa elpenor.—*Great Elephant Hawk Moth*. Sometimes taken.

Macroglossa stellatarum. — *Humming-bird Hawk Moth*. Abundant some years, and may not be seen for a long period.

Macroglossa bombylifformis. — *Narrow-bordered Bee Hawk Moth*. Once only taken by me, many years ago, in Llandefalle parish.

Zeuzera aesculi. *Leopard*. Major Roche took one at Tregunter, and I had one near Hay.

Cossus ligniperda. *Goat Moth*. Have never seen this insect in perfect state. Have often seen the caterpillar. Infected trees common.

Nola cristulalis.—*Least Black Arches*. Fairly common.

Nola cucullatella.—*Short Cloaked Moth*. I took this moth freely near Hay, but have never seen it elsewhere in the district.

Nudaria senex.—*Round Winged Muslin*. Common and abundant.

Hepialus hectus.—*Golden Swift*. Abundant in wood near Tregunter.

Hepialus lupulinus.—*Swift*. Common.

- Hepialus humuli*.—*Ghost Swift*. Common.
- Hepialus sylvinus*.—*Wood Swift*. Common.
- Hepialus veleda*. *Northern Swift*. Occurs on the hills.
- Lithosia complanula*.—*Common Footman*. Abundant.
- Lithosia complana*.—*Scarce Footman*. Very rare.
- Lithosia rubricollis*.—*Red-necked Footman*. Taken at Llanggoed and Skreen.
- Spilosoma menthastri*.—*White Ermine*. Very abundant.
- Spilosoma lubricipeda*.—*Buff Ermine*. Very abundant.
- Spilosima mendica*.—*Muslin Moth*. Rare.
- Riparis auriflua*.—*Yellow Tail*. Abundant.
- Chelonia caja*.—*Tiger*. Common. Caterpillar is the Woolly Bear.
- Chelonia plantaginis*.—*Wood Tiger*. Not common.
- Arctia fuliginosa*.—*Ruby Tiger*. Generally distributed, but not common.
- Cilix spinula*.—*Chinese Character*. Common.
- Zygaena filipendulae*.—*Six-spot Burnet*. Common everywhere.
- Zygaena loniceræ*.—*Five-spot Burnet*. Local; abundant where found.
- Bombyx rubi*.—*Fox Moth*. Common.
- Bombyx quercus*.—*Oak Egger*. Uncertain.
- Odonestis potatoria*.—*Drinker*. Common.
- Pacilocampa populi*.—*December Moth*. Common.
- Orgyia pudibunda*.—*Pale Tussock*. Fairly common. Its very conspicuous caterpillar, the *Hop Dog*, is much oftener seen than the moth.
- Demas coryli*.—*Nut-tree Tussock*. Not common.
- Dicranura vinula*.—*Puss Moth*. Not abundant.
- Dicranura furcula*.—*Sallow Kitten*. Major Roche had one caught near Talgarth.
- Petasia cassinea*.—*Sprawler*. In 1896 plentiful, when Major Roche and myself caught a fine series. Have only seen one since.

- Pygaera bucephala.—*Buff Tip*. Often to be found.
- Notodonta trepida.—*Great Prominent*.
- Notodonta camelina.—*Coxcomb Prominent*.
- Notodonta dictaea.—*Swallow Prominent*.
- Ptilodontia palpina.—*Pale Prominent*.
- Diloba caeruleocephala.—*Figure-of-eight Moth*. Occurs in September.
- Cymatophora duplaris.—*Lesser Satin Moth*. Not Common.
- Cymatophora diluta.—*Lesser Lute-string*. Abundant.
- Cymatophora ridens.—*Frosted Green*. Rare.
- Cymatophora ocularis.—*Figure of Eighty*. Very rare.
- Saturnia carпинi.—*Emperor Moth*. Fairly common on heaths.
- Platyporex falcula.—*Pebble Hook Tip*. Rare.

NOCTUAS.

- Gonophura derasa.—*Buff Arches*. Two caught by Major Roche at Tregunter.
- Thyatira batis.—*Peach Blossom*. Major Roche had a fine series of this beautiful moth, which he caught to sugar. I have taken it to light.
- Hadena oleracea.—*Bright-line Brown-eye*. Abundant.
- Hadena protea.—*Brindle Green*. Abundant.
- Hadena genista.—*Light Brocade*. Rare.
- Hadena dentina.—*The Shears*. Common.
- Hadena adusta.—*Dark Brocade*. Rare.
- Hadena thalassina.—*Pale Shrouded Brocade*. Common.
- Hadena pisi.—*Broom Moth*. Very Rare.
- Leucania lithargyria.—*The Clay*. Very common.
- Leucania conigera.—*Brown-Lined Bright-eyes*. Common.
- Leucania comma.—*Shoulder-striped Wainscot*. Common.
- Leucania impura.—*Smoky Wainscot*. Common.
- Leucania palleus.—*Common Wainscot*. Common.

- Acronycta psi.—*Gray Dagger*. Common.
- Acronycta rumicis.—*The Knot-grass*. Common.
- Acronycta ligustri.—*The Coronet*. Rare.
- Acronycta alni.—*The Alder*. Very rare.
- Heliophobus popularis.—*Feathered Gothic*. Common.
- Grammesia trilinea.—*Treble Lines*. Very abundant one year; not seen since.
- Triphaena fimbria.—*Broad-banded Yellow Underwing*. Not common.
- Triphaena orbona.—*Lesser Yellow Underwing*. Abundant.
- Triphaena pronuba.—*Large Yellow Underwing*. Very abundant everywhere.
- Triphaena ianthina.—*Lesser Broad-banded Yellow-Underwing*. Not so common.
- Taeniocampa gothica.—*Hebrew Character*. Very common.
- Taeniocampa stabilis.—*Common Quaker*. Very common.
- Taeniocampa instabilis.—*Clouded Drab*. Very common.
- Taeniocampa munda.—*Twin-spot Quaker*. Very common.
- Taeniocampa gracilis.—*Powdered Quaker*. Very common.
- Taeniocampa cruda.—*Small Quaker*. Very common.
- Taeniocampa rubricosa.—*Red Chesnut*. Very common.
- Taeniocampa leucographa.—*The White Marked*. Considered rare; Major Roche had a fine series caught at Tregunter; I have often taken it.
- Chareas graminis. *Antler*. Common. Caterpillar destroys the pasture by eating roots of grasses.
- Amphipyra tragopogonis.—*Mouse Moth*. Everywhere.
- Amphipyra pyramidia.—*Copper Underwing*. Comes freely to sugar.
- Dianthecia conspersa.—*Marbled Coronet*. I only took one. Major Roche never took it.
- Dianthecia cucubali.—*Campion*. Not common.

- Abrostola urticae*.—*Light Spectacle*. Common.
Abrostola triplasia.—*Dark Spectacle*. Common.
Polia chi.—*The Grey Chi*. Very common.
Agrotis segetum.—*Turnip Moth*. Abundant.
Agrotis exclamationis.—*Heart and Dart*. Abundant everywhere.
Agrotis suffusa.—*Dark Swordgrass*. Uncertain in appearance.
Agrotis corticea.—*Heart and Club*. Rare.
Agrotis cinerea.—*Light Feathered Rustic*. Very rare; taken 3 only, by light.
Agrotis porphyrea.—*True-lovers' Knot*. Common on heath.
Axylia putris.—Rare.
Xylina rhizolitha.—*Grey Shoulder-knot*. Common.
Xylina petrificata.—*Pale Pinion*. Rare in Autumn at Ivy blossoms.
Hecatera Serena.—*Broad-barred White*. Common.
Xanthina ferruginea.—*The Brick*. Abundant.
Xanthina silago.—*Pink-barred Sallow*. Scarce.
Xanthina cerago.—*The Sallow*. Scarce.
Xanthina aurago.—*Barred Sallow*. Scarce.
Xanthina gilvago.—*Dusky Lemon Sallow*. Scarce.
Cirrhædia zerampelina.—*Centre-barred Sallow*. A specimen of this fine moth was caught by Major Roche at Tregunter.
Cosmia trapezina.—*The Dun Bar*. Very common.
Cosmia diffinis.—*White Spotted Pinion*. Scarce.
Scopelosoma satellitia.—*The Satellite*. Very common.
Cerastis vaccinii.—*The Chestnut*. Very common.
Cerastis spadicea.—*Dark Chestnut*. Very common.
Mamestra anceps.—*Large Nutmeg*. Uncertain.
Mamestra brassicae.—*Cabbage Moth*. Common.
Epunda viminalis.—*Minor Shoulder-knot*. Common.

- Miana strigilis*.—*Marbled Minor*. Common.
Miana fasciuncula.—*Cloaked Minor*. Common.
Euplexia lucipara.—*Small Angle Shades*. Common.
Luperina testacea.—*Flounced Rustic*. Common.
Luperina cespitis.—*Hedge Rustic*. Common.
Miselia oxycanthae. — *Green Brindled Crescent*. Very common.
Anchocelis rufina.—*Flounced Chestnut*. Rare.
Anchocelis pistacina.—*Beaded Chestnut*. Common.
Anchocelis litura.—*Brown-spot Pinion*. Common.
Caradrina cubicularis.—*Pale Mottled Willow*. Very common.
Caradrina alsinis.—*The Uncertain*. Common.
Caradrina morpheus.—*Mottled Rustic*. Rather rare.
Rusina tenebrosa.—*Brown Rustic*. Common.
Gortyna flavago.—*Frosted Orange*. Common.
Hydraecia nictitans.—*Ear Moth*. Common.
Hydraecia micacea.—*Rosy Rustic*. Common.
Euclidia glyphyca.—*Burnet Noctua*. Common.
Phytometra aenea.—*Small Purple Barred*. Common.
Gonopterix libatrix.—*Herald*. Common.
Bryophila perla.—*Marbled Beauty*. Common.
Cerigo cytherea.—*Straw Underwing*. Rather scarce.
Anarta mytili.—*Beautiful Yellow Underwing*. On heath moors in June.
Tethia subtusa.—*The Olive*. Rare.
Phlogophora meticulosa.—*Angle Shades*. Very Common.
Aplecta herbida.—*Green Arches*. Generally rare. Common one year.
Aplecta nebulosa.—*Gray Arches*. Common.
Xylocampa lithoriza.—*Lady Gray*. Common on walls in March.
Cucullia umbratica.—*Shark*. Abundant.

Cucullia chamomillae.—*Chamomile Shark*. Abundant.

Plusia chrysitis.—*Burnished Brass*. Abundant.

Plusia iota.—*Plain Golden Y*. Abundant.

Plusia v. turcum.—*Beautiful Golden Y*. Abundant.

Plusia gamma.—*Silver Y*. Very abundant.

Plusia bractea.—*Gold Spangle*. Major Roche and myself caught one each of this beautiful moth, to light; his at Tre-gunter, mine at Skreen, on the same night. I have never seen another.

Catocala nupta.—*Red Underwing*. This magnificent species is common.

Mania maura.—*The Old Lady*. Common.

Nænia typica.—*The Gothic*. Common.

Agriopis aprilina.—*Marvel du Jour*. Rather rare.

Noctua argur.—*Double Dart*. Not common.

Noctua baja.—Common.

Noctua brunnea.—*Purple Clay*. Common.

Noctua triangulum.—*Double-spotted Square-spot*. Rare.

Noctua festiva.—*Ingrailed Clay*. Very abundant.

Noctua glaveosa.—*Autumn Rustic*. Scarce.

Noctua rubi.—*Small Square-spot*. Common.

Noctua plecta.—*Flame Shoulder*. Common.

Noctua xanthographa.—*Square-spot Rustic*. Abundant.

Noctua C nigrum.—*Setaceous Herbrew Character*. Not common.

Noctua depuncta.—*Plain Clay*. Rare.

Noctua umbrosa.—*Six-striped Rustic*. Rare.

Orthosia iota.—*Red-line Quaker*. Common.

Orthosia macilenta.—*Yellow-line Quaker*. Common.

GEOMETERS.

Venilia maculata.—*Speckled Yellow*. Common in Darren wood, near Erwood. Have not met with it elsewhere.

Selenia illunaria.—*Early Thorn*. Very common. Second brood abundant.

Selenia juliana.—*August Thorn*. Abundant.

Selenia illustraria.—*Purple Thorn*. Rare.

Odontoptera bidentata.—*Scalloped Hazel*. Common.

Crocallis elingnaria.—*Scalloped Oak*. Common.

Enomos tiliaria.—*Canary Shouldered Thorn*. Common.

Hemerophila abruptaria.—*Waved Umber*. Common.

Cleora lichnaria.—*Brussels Lace*. Very rare.

Cleora glabraria.—*Dotted Carpet*. Very rare.

Geometra papilionaria.—*Large Emerald*. Moderately common.

Abraxas grossulariata.—*Currant Moth*. Very abundant everywhere.

Abraxas ulmata. — *Clouded Magpie*. Common in Darren wood, Erwood.

Camptogramma bilinearia.—*Yellow Shell*. One of our commonest moths.

Pseudopterpna cytisaria.—*Grass Emerald*. Common.

Panagra petrararia.—*Brown Silver Line*. Common.

Lomaspilis marginaria.—*Small Magpie*. Very abundant.

Eupisteria heparata.—*Dingy Shell*. Very abundant.

Metrocampa margaritaria.—*Light Emerald*. Very abundant.

Anticlea rubidata.—*The Flame*. Very common.

Anticlea derivata.—*The Stream*. Very common.

Eubolia cervinaria.—*Mallow*. Rather scarce.

Eubolia mensuraria.—*Small Mallow*. Very abundant.

Eubolia palumbaria.—*The Belle*. Fairly common.

Anaitis plagiata.—*Treble Bar*. Common.

- Melanippe montanata*.—*Silver Ground Carpet*. One of our most abundant.
- Melanippe substrictaria*.—*Common Carpet*. Abundant.
- Melanippe fluctuata*.—*Garden Carpet*. Abundant.
- Melanippe rivata*.—*Wood Carpet*. Not so abundant.
- Melanippe tristata*.—*Small August or Silver*. Common
- Cidaria psittacata*.—*Red Green Carpet*. Scarce.
- Cidaria corylata*.—*Broken Barred Carpet*. Scarce.
- Cidaria suffumata*.—*Water Carpet*. Common.
- Cidaria fulvata*.—*Barred Yellow*. A common and beautiful little Moth.
- Cidaria silicata*.—*Small Phoenix*. Common.
- Cidaria pyraliata*.—*Barred Straw*. Common.
- Cidaria testata*.—*Chevron*. Common.
- Cidaria dotata*.—*Spinach*. Rare.
- Cidaria populata*.—*Northern Spinach*. One specimen secured.
- Cidaria immanata*.—*Dark Marbled Carpet*. Common.
- Cidaria picata*.—*Short Cloak Carpet*. Very scarce.
- Cidaria miata*.—*Autumn Green Carpet*. Common.
- Cidaria ribesaria*.—*Phoenix*. Moderately common.
- Thera firmata*.—*Pine Carpet*. Rather rare.
- Coremia propugnata*.—*Flame Carpet*. Common.
- Coremia ferrugata*.—*Red Twin-spot Carpet*. Common.
- Coremia unidentata*.—*Dark Barred Twin-spot Carpet*.
- Eupisteria heparata*.—*Dingy Shell*. Very common.
- Scotosia dubitata*.—*Tissue*. Common.
- Larentia didymata*.—*Twin-spot Carpet*. Very Common.
- Larentia multistrigata*.—*Mottled Gray*. Very Common.
- Larentia pectinitaria*.—*Green Carpet*. Very common.
- Oporabia dilutata*.—*November Moth*. Very abundant.
- Chimatobia brumata*.—*Winter Moth*. Very common; destructive to apple crops.

- Hybernia leucophaearia*.—*Spring Usher*. Fairly common.
Hybernia rupicapraia.—*Early Moth*. Rare.
Hybernia aurantiaria.—*Scarce Umber*. Common.
Hybernia progemmaria.—*Dotted Border*. Common.
Hybernia defoliaria.—*Mottled Umber*. Very common.
Phigalia pilosaria.—*Brindled Beauty*. Occurs; not abundant.
Rumia cratægata.—*Brimstone Moth*. Everywhere.
Epione apiciaria.—*Bordered Beauty*. Rare.
Pericallia syringaria.—*Lilac Beauty*. This beautiful moth is rare.
Timandra amataria.—*Blood Vein*. Common.
Cabera pusaria.—*Common White Wave*. Everywhere.
Boarmia repandata.—*Mottled Beauty*. Common.
Boarmia rhomboidaria.—*Willow Beauty*. Common.
Ypsipetes elutata.—*July High-Flier*. Common.
Ypsipetes ruberata.—*Ruddy High-Flier*. Rare.
Amphydasis prodomaria.—*Oak Beauty*. Rather rare.
Amphydasis betularia.—*Peppered Moth*. Scarce; have taken the black variety.
Tephrosia biundularia.—*Engrailed*. Common.
Melanthia rubiginata.—*Blue Bordered Carpet*. Common.
Melanthia ocellata.—*Purple Bar*. Common.
Melanthia albicillata.—*Beautiful Carpet*. Very scarce. Have only seen 3 or 4.
Himera pennaria.—*Feathered Thorn*. Common.
Asthena luteata.—*Small Yellow Wave*. Fairly common.
Asthena candidata.—*Small White Wave*. Common.
Asthena sylvata.—*Waved Carpet*. Common.
Uropteryx sambucata.—*Swallow-Tailed Moth*. Common.
Numeria pulveraria.—*Barred Umber*. Very common; but difficult to get in good condition.

- Anisopteryx aescularia*.—*March Moth*. Not very common.
Ligdia adustata.—*Scorched Carpet*. Rare. Major Roche
 and myself caught it once or twice only.
Halia wavaria.—*V Moth*. Have taken it near Hay.
Phibalapteryx lignata.—*Oblique Carpet*. Rare.
Chesias spartiata.—*Streak*. Rare.
Emmelesia affinitata.—*The Rivulet*. Common.
Emmelesia alchemillata.—*Small Rivulet*. Common.
Emmelesia decolorata.—*Sandy Carpet*. Common.
Emmelesia albulata.—*Grass Rivulet*. Common.
Acidalia bisetata.—*Small Jan-foot Wave*. Common.
Acidalia scutulata.—*Single Clotted Wave*. Common.
Acidalia aversata and *va. remutata*.—*Riband Wave*. Both
 varieties common.
Acidalia fumata.—*Smoky Wave*. Not common.
Tanagra chaerophyllata.—*Chimney Sweep*. Very local;
 abundant when occurs.
Iodis lactearia.—*Little Emerald*. Abundant.
Hemithea thymiaria.—*Common Emerald*. Abundant.

THE GENUS EUPITHAECIA.

These beautiful Moths (called by Collectors PUGS) are very difficult to differentiate. I have taken the following, of which the first three are common and abundant.

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|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <i>Eupithecia vulgata</i> . | <i>Eupithecia pumilata</i> . |
| <i>Eupithecia rectangulata</i> . | <i>Eupithecia assimilata</i> . |
| <i>Eupithecia exigua</i> . | <i>Eupithecia castigata</i> . |
| <i>Eupithecia irrigua</i> . | <i>Eupithecia tenuiata</i> . |
| <i>Eupithecia linariata</i> . | <i>Eupithecia albipunctata</i> . |
| <i>Eupithecia abbreviata</i> . | <i>Eupithecia fraxinata</i> . |
| <i>Eupithecia laricata</i> . | <i>Eupithecia coronata</i> . |
| <i>Eupithecia minuata</i> . | <i>Eupithecia innotata</i> . |

PYRALIDES AND DELTOIDES.

Aglossa pinguinalis.	Scopula olivalis.
Botys verticalis.	Scoparia mercurialis.
Botys fuscalis.	Scoparia lineolalis.
Hypena proboscidalis.	Scoparia crataegalis.
Pionea forficallis.	Scoparia pyralis.
Herminea grisealis.	Scoparia frequentalis.
Hydrocampa nymphaealis.	Scoparia atomalis.
Hydrocampa stagnata.	Scoparia cembrae.
Aventia flexula.	Diurnea fagella.
Aphomia sociella.	Pyransta purpuralis.
Scopula lutealis.	Halias prassinana.

MICROLEPIDOPTERA.

Crambus culmellus.	Micropteryx sub purpurella.
„ perlellus.	„ calthella.
Ptycholoma lecheana.	„ seppella.
Tortrix adjunctana.	Chelaria hubnerella.
„ pyrastrana.	Hyponomenta cognatella.
„ ministrana.	„ evonymella.
„ ribeana.	Excapata getella.
„ rosana.	Dysteera sulphurella.
„ unifasciana.	Glyphipteryx fiscovindella.
„ viridana.	Cerostoma sequella.
Rhacodia caudana.	„ radiatella.
Peronea varigana.	„ w, 2. dw, Mic.
„ favillaceana.	Tortricodes hyemana.
„ schalleriana.	Argyrotoza convayana.
Penthina pruniana.	Bactra lanceolana.
„ ochroclerica.	Sciaphila subjectana.
Pardia tripunctana.	„ virgaureana.
Ephippiphora pflugiana.	„ sinuana.
Pediscia corticana.	Sericoris lacunana and
„ profundana.	herbana.
„ solandriana.	Sericoris conchana.
Phoxopteryx mitterpacheriana.	„ politana.
„ lundana.	Prays curtisellus.
Symaethis fabriciana.	Eidophasia messingiella.
Xanthosetia zoeana (L.).	Chrysoclysta flavicaput.
„ hamana (L.).	Aecophora tripuncta.
Phibalocera quercana.	Gracillaria elongella.
Ephestia elutella.	Glechia ericetella.
Harpiteryx harpella.	„ longicornia.
Harpella geoffrella.	Laverna epilobicella.
Nemophora piella.	Dictyopteryx fois kaleana.
Adela viridella (L.).	„ aspersana.

L.

<i>Dictyopteryx loephigiana</i> .	<i>Incurvaria muscatella</i> .
<i>Pseudosretella lesserana</i> .	" <i>ornix</i> .
<i>Depressana applana</i> .	" <i>guttea</i> .
" <i>arenella</i> .	<i>Eupœcilia maculosana</i> .
<i>Euchrosis fenestrella</i> .	<i>Tinea semifulvella</i> .
<i>Achroena grisella</i> .	" <i>cloacella</i> .
<i>Plutella cruciferana</i> .	" <i>granella</i> .
<i>Ephippiphora trigemiana</i> .	" <i>arcella</i> .
" <i>bimaculana</i> .	" <i>bimaculella</i> .
<i>Dicrorampha sequana</i> .	<i>Elachista obscurella</i> .
<i>Sicrorampha petiverella</i> .	" <i>rufocinerea</i> .
<i>Phælodis tetræquetrans</i> .	" <i>migrella</i> .
<i>Nephticula marginicolella</i> .	" <i>albifrontella</i> .
" <i>floslactella</i> .	

2.—ODONATA—DRAGON-FLIES.

I have taken these 10 species in the immediate neighbourhood. I am sure there are some more species to be taken; but, except the smaller sorts, they are difficult to catch.

<i>Agrion puella</i> .	<i>Oeschna cyanea</i> .
<i>Calopteryx virgo</i> .	<i>Libellula depressa</i> .
<i>Calopteryx splendens</i> .	<i>Pyrorhosoma nymphula</i> .
<i>Cordulegastor annulatus</i> .	<i>Sympetrum striolatum</i> .
<i>Gomphus vulgatissimus</i> .	<i>Sympetrum scoticum</i> .

3.—ISOPODA OR WOODLICE.

The study of these creatures has been much neglected, and this is rather strange, considering how many of the smaller kind of insects, etc., have lately received so much attention. The Woodlice are of fair size; they occur in places where there is some moisture, as they cannot exist without a certain amount of dampness to keep their breathing organs moist. With a little study the different species are easily distinguishable from each other. There are about 30 species to be found in the British Isles, and of these I have taken 13 species in the counties of Brecon and Radnor within a few miles of Talgarth. The list is :

- Oniscus asellus*. Abundant everywhere. I have taken one example of var. *albida*, which is pure white.
- Porcellio scaber*. Almost as common as *O. asellus*.
- Porcellio pictus*. By no means common.
- Porcellio rathkii*. Occurs with the last two species in both Brecon and Radnor.

Porcellio laevis. I found two under stones in the garden of the Castle Hotel, Brecon.

Trichoniseus roseus. In greenhouses and gardens.

Trichoniscus pusillus. Common.

Philoscia muscorum. Abundant; the dark form is the more common; but I have often seen the lighter and redder form.

Platyarthrus hoffmanseggii. Common in ants' nests. In general the two seem to get on very well; but when food is scarce the ants have been known to eat the woodlice.

Haptophthalmus mengii. Under flower pots in conservatories and greenhouses.

Haptophthalmus danicus. With the last named species.

Armadilidium vulgare. Common everywhere.

Armadilidium pulchella. I have found this beautiful little woodlouse in some numbers on the Radnorshire side of the river near Erwood.

J. WILLIAMS-VAUGHAN.

4.—MOLLUSCA, LAND AND FRESHWATER SHELLS TALGARTH DISTRICT.

The Talgarth district is not a good neighbourhood for collecting Land Shells. Even the commonest forms are not abundant. The older geological formations do not seem to be so suited for molluscan life as do the Chalk or Oolite. Until a few years ago, very little attention had been paid to the Land and Freshwater shells of Breconshire. Indeed, Mr. J. W. Taylor, of Leeds, one of our best living authorities, described South Wales as practically almost a blank on the Conchological Census. Lately, a good deal of work has been done in the matter, and I am able to give a list of 80 species from the Talgarth district. I believe further research will add thereto. The list is as follows:—

SLUGS.

Arion ater L. The common black slug; very common.

Under side generally white, but in variety *aterrima* the under parts are black. This variety is the prevailing form above 1,000 feet

Arion subfuscus. Common.

Arion minimus. Common.

Arion hortensis. Very abundant and destructive in all gardens.

Arion circumscriptus. Common.

Milax gagates. Occurs, but is rare. Have found it only twice in the neighbourhood.

Limax maximus. Generally distributed, but not abundant.

Limax flavus. The cellar slug. Have taken it at Hay and Brecon.

Limax cinerea. Occurs, but is scarce.

Limax arborum. Common.

Agriolimax agrestis. The common grey slug. Occurs everywhere.

Agriolimax laevis. Have found it on the island in Llangorse Lake only.

LAND SHELLS.

Vitrina pellucida. Abundant.

Hyalina cellaria. Abundant.

Hyalina helvetica. Rare; occurs in Llanerchgoedlan dingle near Erwood and near Llanbychlyn Pool.

Hyalina nitidula. Commonest of all the *hyalinae* in the district.

Hyalina radiatula. Common.

Hyalina pura. Common.

Hyalina crystallina. Common.

Hyalina fulva. Common.

Hyalina nitida. Found it only on the Llangorse Island in company with *Ag laevis*.

Hyalina excavata. Rare; found only at Erwood.

Hyalina alliara. Common. Recognisable only by peculiar smell.

Helix rotundata. Very abundant.

Helix pygmaea. The very small size of the species makes it likely to be overlooked. I found it near Glasbury and Painscastle.

LIII.

- Helix aculeata*. On dead holly leaves near Erwood and Glasbury.
- Helix pulchella*. Rare; near Llangorse village and at the Skreen, Erwood, and on the Castle Tump, Painscastle.
- Helix lapicida*. Common on Silurian rocks on both sides of Wye, near Erwood.
- Helix aspersa*. Common.
- Helix nemoralis*. Common.
- Helix hortensis*. Common.
- Helix arbustorum*. Local. Found two on a hedge by road close to Talgarth; common in Darron Wood, near Erwood.
- Helix rufescens*. Common on walls of gardens on Brecon Road, Hay, especially after rain.
- Helix hispida*. Generally distributed.
- Helix fusca*. In a large wood on Trebarried Farm, near Pontybat, and at Torst dingle, near Hay.
- Helix caperata*. Garden wall of Little Fforddfawr, near Hay, and near Erwood Station.
- Pupa cyclindracea*. Very common.
- Vertigo antivertigo*. Under stones in marshy places.
- Vertigo pygmaea*. Rare; Glasbury and Erwood.
- Balea perversa*. On Silurian rocks, near Erwood.
- Buliminus obscurus*. Generally distributed; nowhere common.
- Clausilia bidentata*. Everywhere.
- Azea tridens*. Common in Breconshire side of Cusop Valley, near Hay, and on ruins of an old cottage in Skreen Darran.
- Cochlicopa lubrica*. Generally distributed.
- Succinea putris*. Occurs in marshy meadows.
- Carychium minimum*. Common and abundant.
- Accicula lineata*. Very rare; only one specimen near Glasbury.

FRESHWATER SHELLS.

- Planorbis fontanus*. Scarce; Llangorse Lake.
- Planorbis nautilus*. Scarce; Llangorse Lake.
- Planorbis albus*. Pools, near Glasbury and Llangorse.

- Planorbis spirorbis*. Common in all suitable places.
Planorbis vortex. The canal, Brecon.
Planorbis carinatus. Llangorse Lake; abundant.
Planorbis contortus. Not common; Llangorse.
Planorbis parvus. In a stream near Llangorse Lake.
Physa fontinalis. Llangorse Lake; but small and scarce.
Ancylus fluviatilis. Abundant in every stream and brook.
Velletia lacustris. On lily stems, Llangorse Lake.
Limnea stagnalis. Llangorse Lake; very fine and large.
Limnea peregrina. Everywhere.
Limnea palustris. Llangorse Lake; very fine and large.
Limnea auricularia. Llangorse Lake.
Limnea truncatula. Common.
Bythinia tentaculata. Abundant; Llangorse Lake and Brecon canal.
Valvata piscinalis. Abundant; Llangorse Lake and Brecon canal.
Valvata cristata. Llangorse Lake and Pool near Glasbury.
Anodonta anatina. Llangorse Lake and River Wye.
Unio pictorum. Llangorse Lake and River Wye.
Sphaerium corneum. In all suitable places.
Sphaerium rivicola. One specimen Llangorse Lake.
Sphaerium lacustre. Pool near Glasbury, and pool on Sheephouse Farm, Hay.
Paludetrina jenkinsii. Abundant in canal at Brecon.
Pisidium amnicum. Abundant in Llangorse Lake and Brecon canal.
Pisidium nitidum. Brecon canal.
Pisidium milium. Llangorse Lake and Brecon canal.
Pisidium casentanum. Muddy ditches and Brecon canal.
Pisidium subtruncatum. Muddy ditches and Brecon canal.
Pisidium henslowanum. Llangorse Lake and Brecon canal.
Pisidium obtusale. Llangorse Lake and Brecon canal.
Pisidium pusillum. Llangorse Lake and Brecon canal. 103

Pisidium hibernium. Brecon Canal.

These minute bivalve shells (the *Pisidia*) are very difficult to identify. I have to thank Mr. B. B. Woodward, of the British Museum, for very kindly assisting me with mine.

July, 1920.

J. WILLIAMS-VAUGHAN.

